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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We congratulate our friends and patrons on the prosperity that rewards the labors of the farmers of Oregon and Washington, and we solicit their continued good will and patronage for our paper, promising them that we will make the WILLAMETTE FARMER all that their support will warrant.

We have purchased a large press, capable of doing much more rapid work, with the intention of enlarging and improving the FARMER whenever our circulation shall increase to justify it.

We have many friends who realize the great necessity and advantage in having an independent and fearless journal devoted to the interests of agriculture, and we solicit the friendly services of all farmers to increase our business and so enable us to work more successfully for their interests.

There is a large immigration coming into the State, and we hope to receive increased support from all such new comers. If our old friends will help us to make new ones, we will reward their services by a liberal commission, and thank them besides.

There are many who are in arrears, some of them for a long time, and we respectfully urge all such to remember us now that prosperity is so general. We dislike to send out duns, and hope that all those will respond without further reminder.

The prosperity of this paper should be an indication of the prosperity of the region it represents. Now, that our patrons have an abundant yield and first-rate prices for cereals and all other products, we hope to receive the general patronage and good will we have always tried to deserve.

The Pacific North West is able to support a good newspaper in the interest of agriculture, and it is our ambition to prove that fact beyond a question.

Once more: We need all the help our friends can give to secure an increase of circulation, and we need all the money that is due us on old accounts. Those who owe us for more than one year are informed that we do not wish to be forgotten, or to have to send them particular reminders.

THE CHISEL CULTIVATOR.

ASHLAND, Sept. 18, 1877. This implement has been used in this valley to a limited extent, in the past, with satisfactory results. I have been using one for some time and sowing wheat. This is the fitting my animals are getting for the State Fair, as I use White Prince, White Rose, Doll and Tempest, all full blood Percherons, to it.

The Chisel Cultivator is a California invention, and designed to be used on dry land or before the rains come, to prepare the ground for plowing, as frequently in California and sometimes in this valley there will not be rain enough to get the ground in order to plow till December and January and then sometimes so wet cannot plow them. This implement will loosen the dry, hard adobe, as well as other stival or red lands to a depth of three to four inches, and the first rains start the grain and makes a good crop with anything of a fair season.

The cultivator is a stout frame A shaped with three iron wheels, with seven and nine chisels, seven is enough for four horses, the chisels are strongly braced with iron, and are in shape like the millers use for dressing burs, cut 2 1/2 inches about 14 long, these are of hardened steel, can be reversed, and self sharpeners, the 7 are set to take or make 3 feet—the actual out of the chisels is 17 1/2 inches, the middle will generally break out, but to do a good job, run the cultivator across the first cultivation.

I have no doubt this would be a valuable improvement for the farmers of Eastern Oregon and Washington Territory, as I believe it does not rain early enough to prepare the ground for plowing and sowing to get the wheat up before winter sets in, this would help that difficulty, and could be used at least every alternate year, and I doubt not, would be a good improvement for the farmers of the Willamette, when they are troubled with wild oats, run the cultivator over the ground before the rains get the ground in order to plow, this will so loosen the ground that the wild oats will start immediately after the first rains, then when well up plunge deep with a jointer or small plow, on the beam in advance of a larger one, this arrangement for a plow will cover up anything, and put all the surface in the bottom of the furrow. W. C. MYER.

A Prosperous Business. Attention is called to the new "ad" of Gardner Bros. in this issue. This firm so lately established here are doing a wonderfully prosperous business. On Saturday last they received an invoice of 10 organs from different factories. These instruments have been sent to the company's agents at Eugene, Albany and Halsey, and are already sold. Another invoice is expected to arrive this week. This company is also selling pianos as well. Since the first of the month pianos have been sold to S. F. Macks, Aurora; Jas. Coleman, St. Paul; Wm. Cummings and Jas. A. Bushnell, Junction; Charles B. Barnes, of Albany, and others whose names have not been reported. The company also have in stock instruction books and a fine assortment of sheet music.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOREIGN.

London, Sept. 21.—It is announced that four large London firms were yesterday invited to make tenders for a supply of iron bolts to be erected near Bucharest for 100,000 Russian soldiers.

Chicago, Sept. 22.—The Tribune's London special says: Fighting is reported to have begun between the forces of Mehmet Ali and the Czarovitch near Biela. The Turkish forces came up with the Russian outposts Thursday and some skirmishing took place, followed by more serious conflict Friday resulting in a loss to the Russians of 5,000 men, and to the Turks 6,000. Both sides claim the victory.

London, Sept. 22.—No official intelligence is yet received from either side concerning the reported battle at Biela yesterday.

A special from Bucharest to day says there has been several indecisive fighting for two days between the czarovitch and Mehmet Ali. The Russians still hold Biela. Another report is that the Russian headquarters have retired to Nistova.

Osman Pasha attacked Gravitz redoubt Thursday night and was repulsed with heavy loss.

London, Sept. 23.—A Russian official bulletin, dated Gorney Studin, Saturday, says the Turks renewed the bombardment of Schipka pass positions on Friday, in the afternoon. They began the assault on the right flank, but were repulsed. They then attacked the left and center and were likewise repulsed. The fighting lasted until night. It is thought the attack will be renewed Saturday.

Chevet Pasha telegraphs from Orchaine, Sept. 22, that Hiti Pasha commanding the convoy of the provision train for Osman Pasha arrived at Dabrich, two hours' march from Plevna, having defeated 15 Russian battalions on the way. Osman Pasha is expected to make a sortie to establish a junction with this force.

Constantinople, Sept. 23.—Mehemet Ali telegraphs to-day to the port as follows: "Noon, Sept. 21st.—When a furious engagement took place, we advanced to the enemy's entrenched darkness stopped the fighting. Enemy's loss was twice as great as ours."

An official Russian dispatch gives the loss in Schipka pass on the 16th and 17th at 31 officers and 1,000 men killed and wounded. A Vienna correspondent says the encounters Thursday and Friday near Biela are said to have been greatly exaggerated by the Turks. According to information received here they were drawn battles, and the forces engaged were not large.

A correspondent who was an eye witness of Friday's battle between the czarovitch and Mehmet Ali telegraphs from Zorouna as follows: Five or six different attacks were made to-day by the Turks with from one to three battalions each time and all unsupported attacks failed. The loss to the Turks was very heavy. A number of killed and wounded can be seen lying on the open ground over which the combatants passed. The Russians maintain their positions, which consist of a series of formidable trenches. There has also been some fighting at Kudick Lei by a division of Ahmet Evoub's corps, and at Verbatza by two battalions detached by Mehmet Ali, but the Turks were unsuccessful at these places also. The whole action has been totally different from what it should have been. A feat has been turned into a rout, and the real attack has not been carried out.

London, Sept. 23.—A great demonstration of workmen of Northumberland and Durham was held on the moor of Newcastle, Saturday afternoon, in honor of Gen. Grant. Twenty-two trade societies participated in the procession. The number of persons present was estimated at 50,000. The demonstration has no precedent since the great political meetings at the time of the reform bill. Thos. Burt, member of parliament, presented a eulogistic address to Gen. Grant, who said he thanked the workmen for their very welcome address, and thought this reception was the most honorable he could meet with. Alluding to what Mr. Burt said concerning the late civil war, Gen. Grant declared he had always been an advocate of peace, but when war was declared he went to war for the cause which he believed to be the right and fought to his best ability to secure peace and safety to his nation.

Paris, Sept. 23.—Urban Jean Joseph Le Verrier, the famous astronomer, is dead.

London, Sept. 21.—Mehemet Ali's reported victory turns out to be a defeat. The Russian official bulletin announces at the close of the engagement we held all our positions. A renewal of the attack is expected. A correspondent calls the affair an offensive reconnaissance by ten battalions. The principal Montenegrin army surrounds Gatosco.

A Russian official dispatch, dated Gorney Studin yesterday, says the Turkish attack on Teoyana, the 21st, was decisively repulsed, and was not renewed on the 23d. The Turks retreated. Our loss was 29 officers and 400 men; that of the enemy at least 1,000.

Constantinople, Sept. 21.—Haji Pasha's division of twenty battalions of infantry, two batteries and a regiment of cavalry, entered Plevna with fresh supplies of provisions and ammunition. The work of restoring telegraphic communication is advancing rapidly.

Paris, Sept. 21.—Notwithstanding Saturday's decision against Gambetta, confirming the judgment against him in default, it is thought he still has at command appeals and delays enough to carry him beyond the elections before final sentences, so that he can claim, as a deputy, immunity from arrest. He has, first, the time within which he can make an appeal; second, the time necessary to hear the appeal; third, the time within which the case can be taken to the court of cassation; fourth, the time necessary to hear the case in that court.

London, Sept. 25.—A correspondent with Mehmet Ali indicates that the engagement at Teoyana was intended as a reconnaissance but assumed a somewhat more serious character because of the impetuosity of the Turkish troops who, according to this and other accounts, displayed the greatest courage. The central column advanced as far as Verboka, and after having been ordered four times in vain to retire, had to be led out of the fire by the division commander in person after having stormed the Russian position under a murderous fire.

Erzeroum, Sept. 25.—It is rumored that the Russian garrison of Ardahan has received a reinforcement of eight battalions. The Russian center have also been reinforced, and now contains 41 battalions of infantry. Part of these reinforcements were drawn from Gen. Terkussoff's force, which now consists only of 12 battalions.

London, Sept. 25.—An Orchanli special says preparations are making for an advance of all the troops now here towards Plevna. They include large numbers of Circassians belonging to the Sultan's guard, some regular Albanians, batteries and numbers of undisciplined irregulars. Another immense convoy of provisions and munitions of war is on the point of starting for Plevna, escorted by a division.

London, Sept. 25.—It is stated the Russian and Rumanian losses before Plevna exceed 25,000 killed and wounded.

Bucharest, Sept. 25.—The weather the past two days has been extremely bad at Fratesht which is now a sea of mud. Hospital accommodations exist for 1,500 wounded while 7,000 are accumulated there.

Gen. Todleben has started for the Russian headquarters. It is believed he will remain there some days for consultation on the general situation, and afterwards will be associated with Prince Charles in command of the army before Plevna.

A Turkish detachment has occupied the national stronghold of Rumanian territory under cover of the guns of Silistria. They apparently intend to attempt to cut the railway between Galatz and Bucharest.

Verbitza, Sept. 25.—The Rumanians have approached by sea to within eighty yards of the second Gravitz redoubt. Undoubtedly an assault will be made by two or three regiments. Hiti Pasha was reported to have entered Plevna with only a small escort.

Three infantry divisions of the Russian Guard have reached Biela. One will remain. The two others have been dispatched to Plevna. Nearly all the cavalry of the guard is destined for Tirnova.

London, Sept. 25.—Gen. Grant was to-day met at Sunderland railway station by the Mayor, and Messrs. Gourey and Burt, members of Parliament. The day is observed almost as a general holiday. Nearly 10,000 members of trade and friendly societies marched in procession. General Grant was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the library and museum, and replied to an address of friendly and trade societies. In reply to an invitation from the corporation of Stratford-on-Avon, Gen. Grant intimated his intention to visit the town on Friday next. He will be escorted to Shakerspe's hithplace by the mayor and corporation of that town.

Baltimore, Sept. 22.—The Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. has selected Austin, Texas, for the next annual meeting.

Atlanta, Sept. 22.—President Hayes and party arrived at 7:50 this morning. After breakfast, a drive was taken about the city, and at 10 o'clock, from the stand in front of the hotel, and in presence of 10,000 people, Mayor Angier, on behalf of the municipality, welcomed the President, and Geo. Colquitt, for the people of the State, spoke words of hearty welcome. President Hayes, on being introduced, was greeted with loud cheering. He spoke at length, and his remarks were greeted with hearty applause by the people.

Secretary Everts and Postmaster General Key also spoke.

The banquet in the evening was a grand success. Speeches were made by Hayes, Everts, Key, Ben Hill, and Gordon.

The President has declined the invitation to visit Augusta, Ga. He hopes to be able to do so during the winter.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 22.—A large number of farmers and others interested in the cattle disease which has been raging some weeks in various parts of the city and outlying country, met in convention to-night. The general theory of the disease is that a fever of some kind is communicated to native cattle by Texas cattle brought here for market, and that have been pastured in the surrounding country.

Terre Haute, Ind., Sept. 22.—There was a large labor greenback mass meeting here to-night. The resolutions adopted favor a greenback currency, remonetization of silver, election of President by direct vote of the people, laws making labor the first lien on property, and in favor of harmony among the industrial masses to form a national party organization.

Omaha, Sept. 21.—Ten companies of third infantry arrived here to-day by special train over the Rock Island road, and left for Montana. They are on route from the scene of recent riots in Pennsylvania to the seat of the Indian war.

Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 25.—The presidential party arrived from Lynchburg this afternoon. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed in different places where the train stopped. The party left at four o'clock for Washington. At Gordonsville, Va., there was a brief stop occupied by speeches and greetings.

As we passed through Turner the other day we saw a great number of teams unloading wheat at the Farmers' Warehouse, and met a great many more teams going the same way. Much more wheat than usual is being hauled there.

Destructive Fire at the Patent Office.

Washington, Sept. 24.—The Washington patent office building is on fire. The flames broke out in the model room, burnt through the roof and is blazing furiously. All the engines in the district are gone to the scene. The upper portion of the west wing, on Ninth street, is in flames, which are creeping along between the ceiling and the roof of the north wing and of the main building on F street. An immense number of valuable models have been destroyed. Secretary Schurz and assistants are superintending the removal of the files and records. They are removing the books and papers and organized a guard of a guard of the district militia at the main stairway of the model room in the center of the building where an immense number of models yet remain. The firemen are in the room endeavoring to save it from the flames. It first appeared in the conservatory near the roof. There were an immense number of rejected models packed in the attic above the model room. It is believed spontaneous combustion there caused the conflagration. The land office records are stored in the rooms two stories beneath. The fire has extended to the north wing, one-half of which is now on fire. The whole west wing is one mass of flames. The model department, with models, is partly destroyed.

1:30 p. m.—At this writing the fire is under control. The most damage has been confined to the upper stories. Several fire companies from Baltimore arrived about 12:30. The time from making application for them until their arrival in this city was less than one hour.

The most valuable records of the patent, land, Indian and pension offices, as well as those of the interior department proper are stored on the first two floors of the building beneath the model room, and none of them have yet been reached by the flames. The heat was so intense at one time that the window frames and awnings on G street were ignited but the fire was extinguished before making much progress. The number of models is variously estimated at from 30,000 to 75,000.

In the patent office building are the offices subordinate to the interior department. The pension office, land office, patent office and Indian office, after by mixing of documents in the effort to save them.

At 3 o'clock the fire was confined to the northwest corner and under control. Wright's building on G street opposite the patent office is now on fire and two of the houses on Seventh street opposite the Indian bureau have caught. The general postoffice has been closed and the public work seems suspended throughout the city.

The patent office fire originated from spontaneous combustion among a lot of non-patented chemical matter stored in the attic on the Ninth street front.

The original copy of the Declaration of Independence and relics of Gen. Washington were saved; also Franklin's printing press. Nearly all the specifications and original drawings of the patent office were saved and from these models can be reproduced, if necessary. Many clerks of the interior department, Land, Indian, and Pension offices have been ordered on duty to-night, assorting books and papers and drying those which have been damaged by water. The military are on guard duty at the building, where they will remain until the records and public property are secured. None of the Land office records are destroyed, but many seriously damaged by water.

The most valuable models saved were relating to sewing machines, firearms, printing presses, locks, safes, &c. The models of reapers, mowers, and various agricultural implements were destroyed. The damage to the building is variously estimated at from \$300,000 to \$500,000, while that from the destruction of models and other valuables belonging to the patent office is almost incalculable.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Thirty thousand models were destroyed by fire in the patent office. The value of the property lost, in the abstract, will aggregate about 1 1/2 millions, but as a large number of models cannot or will not be replaced, the actual loss will probably not reach over \$300,000 or \$300,000. The patent office has to its credit with the treasury, over and above its earnings, a sum sufficient to meet this expenditure, but it cannot be used without an appropriation by congress.

St. Louis, Sept. 24.—A special from Leavenworth says a private letter received from Fort Kansas gives an account of a fight between cattle thieves and a party of pursuers in Cheyenne Co., Kansas, some days ago. It seems a large number of cattle had been stolen during the past summer, and it was finally determined by herders and owners to put a stop to it and make an example of them. It is said some 700 cattle were run off from Western Kansas and Colorado by a party of twelve robbers, who started north with them. A party of fifteen rangers, splendidly armed and mounted, started in pursuit. After a very hard ride of fifteen days, they came to the Cheyenne in extreme Northern Kansas, surrounded them when at supper, killed seven of them, hung another to a tree, and recovered all their cattle. None of the rangers were hurt, the surplus being so complete that the robbers had no chance to return the fire or make any resistance.

County Tax Levy. The County Court, made in an adjourned session yesterday, the following tax levy for the coming fiscal year: Net value of taxable property in the county, \$4,195,400; seven mill levy, State tax, \$29,568 50; three mill levy, school tax, \$12,582 20; seven mill levy, current county expenses, \$29,588 50; four mill levy, to be applied on county indebtedness, \$16,603 60; 1.92 mill levy, \$1,982. Total levy 21 mills, \$90,118 40. Geo. A. Ecks, County Clerk.

A Few More Words about Merino Wool.

ED. FARMER: My remarks about Merino wool in last week's paper read a little obscurely by reason of the omission to publish the letter of the Portland firm, who claimed a customary dock of "one half" on four full blooded Merino fleeces, on account of "sweat, grease, and gum." My friend J. C. Rounds suppressed the name of the large souled Portland firm. That, I think, should have been shown up in this connection, although perhaps "the game" would prove to be hardly worth the powder." Your editorial in the same paper, however, under the head of "Eastern Oregon Wool," brings up the subject of the improvement effected on the wool of that region together with the fact that heretofore there has been an arbitrary rule under which Portland merchants have bought it (Eastern Oregon wool) at a price below that they were paying for the wool of Western Oregon." Of this the most enterprising and intelligent of the wool-growers of that district justly complain, and some have carried their condemnation of the practice so far as to let the Portland merchants alone and send their wool to San Francisco, where there are men who care enough for the business of dealing in wool to buy the wool sent to them on its merits, not on the name of the district it comes from. It seems to me this subject, being of importance, second only to the crop of breadstuffs derived from the land, is worthy the attention of the Portland Board of Trade, if it be one of the objects of that Board to make Portland an intelligent center of business. Perhaps Mr. Seymour is correct in his estimate that five times the proportion of fine wool is produced East of the Cascades, that is grown in Western Oregon. The reason is that all the wool grown there is the result of a devotion to wool-growing as a business, guided and stimulated by experience of the truth of the fact you quote Mr. Seymour in support of, that the "short (Merino) wools, heavy with yolk, can stand both the wet of this valley and Umpqua and the alkali of Eastern Oregon better than the Cotswolds and Leicesters. Yet while the wool-growers of East of the Cascades are most generally finding out this fact, because following wool-growing as a special pursuit, the knowledge of it is steadily gaining on the west side, also. As a breeder of Merinos I can say that I have sold four times as many rams of that blood to flock owners in the Willamette valley during the past two years as I did in any like period previously. J. MINTO.

GEN. SHERMAN.

A letter to the Record states that Gen. Sherman will be at the coming State Fair and all will probably have an opportunity to see and hear him.

HALSEY STORE AND WAREHOUSE CO.—We received a call this week from Mr. T. L. Porter, who is connected with this co-operative enterprise, conducted under the management of F. H. Mr. Jos. Post (Pres't. T. J. Black being managing agent). This company has done a splendid business for the last three years, having been entirely successful. Already this fall they have bought 90,000 bu. of wheat, at \$1.00 to \$1.05 per bu., the price paid at Albany. They give the farmer all there is in it and thus deserve and receive the confidence of all producers.

A Potato Yarn.

Mr. T. L. Davidson, living about a mile south of the depot, has a patch of potatoes of the savage variety, that has been guilty of an unaccountable freak. The potatoes in many of the hills ain't in the hills at all but grow on the vines the same as tomatoes. He will have a number of the vines at the State Fair for exhibition and to give our agricultural friends a chance to "rise and explain" why "this thing is thus."

Appointed.

Mr. B. F. Boothby was appointed by the County Court yesterday a commissioner to examine and report on the practicability and cost of a bridge across North Mill creek on the line of Commercial or Front streets.

A Long Strag.

D. D. Prettyman informs us that 120 wagons, loaded with wheat, came into Lincoln yesterday before three o'clock in the afternoon, most of them coming from the vicinity of Bethel and Pezzydale. Wheat hauling in Polk is likely just now, the farmers are anxious to get through so as to attend the State Fair.

Commissions Issued.

The election for State Deputy of I. O. G. T. for Marion county district, has resulted in the choice of R. C. Ramsby, of Silver Lodge No. 35. The judges in Linn county have given a majority of their votes for F. M. Wadsworth, of Western Star No. 10, for that district, while the Multnomah district recommends W. H. O'Donald, of Multnomah No. 12. G. W. C. T. W. R. Dunbar, has issued commissions this week to the gentlemen above named.