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SALEM, FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 1877.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

Recent events have put entirely a different face upon the war between Russia and Turkey, as the Turks have of late met with only continued disaster. Winter is approaching, and campaigning must cease for the present year, though the Russians may continue the investment of some fortified places and complete their capture before Spring, but the Russian armies cannot make any great progress towards Constantinople in the winter. We cannot see how the war can be closed at present, unless Turkey accepts a humiliation not as yet warranted by Russian success. The Turk is animated by the memory of very recent and decided successes, and the Russian is impelled to complete his victory in a manner decided enough to fully compensate and atone for the serious reverses that marked for a while the progress of the contest and must have humbled his pride.

Both these considerations weigh with effect in considering the probable continuance of the war. The winter will give the Turk opportunity to rest his forces and recruit both his armies and his finances. The Turk as a soldier has won in the private campaign, great distinction, and if the Ottoman armies could be well led, and the treasury well supplied so that the sinews of war would not be lacking, we might confidently expect that Russia would find the conquest of Turkey, an impossible achievement. That nation lacks money and perhaps military brains, while it has a brave and devoted—even fanatical people—willing to sacrifice all for the sake of Islam.

The effect of the war on the wheat market is undoubted. If it continues, we may look for continuance of high prices another season, but the accomplishment of peace at an early day will cause at least a temporary check to prices of bread stuffs. That prices will rule favorably to our Oregon producers for a year to come seems probable, for the world has no great stock on hand, and will probably use up the surplus of 1877 very closely.

Peace may be effected by the introduction of the Great Powers, and they will undoubtedly endeavor to interpose their good offices at the earliest possible moment. That further complications may arise to draw other powers into the vortex of war, is not probable. They all know the value of peace too well, to invite war, if it can possibly and honorably be avoided.

HOW TO GET TWO ROADS.

It is well known that for several years the Central Pacific railroad company has been holding out indirect offers of a railroad for Oregon. There have been no definite propositions, and the talk has been of an equivocal and evasive sort; nevertheless it is obvious that this company is looking toward Oregon with a view to bringing our State ultimately within a scheme that embraces the entire railway system of the Pacific coast. That so great a company should aim at a system so vast and comprehensive is quite natural. Its prodigious and rapidly accumulating resources render this aim a rational one. The plan is vast, but is within the compass of achievement. At present the energies of the companies are directed toward the South, in order to head off a rival enterprise that is pushing in that quarter. That it may be sure of effecting this it is urging the construction of the Southern Pacific with all possible rapidity. For the present its intentions in regard to Oregon may be suspended; for, if it can hold back every other road from the Northwest, it can come here in its own good time and occupy the field. Hence whatever influence the Central Pacific may be able to command in or out of Congress will be directed against the Northern Pacific, or any other project whatever to secure for the Northwest an independent road. But, if the appropriation for the Northern Pacific were renewed on such terms as would afford assurance of completion of this road, then the Central Pacific would speedily begin to look in earnest toward Oregon as a field for actual operations. It could no longer afford delay. In order to obtain the hold it desires for the future it would feel obliged to push a road into Oregon at the earliest time possible. Some are talking about two roads into Oregon. Here is the way to make a certainty of getting them. Push the Northern Pacific, and this will bring the Central Pacific into our State.—Oregonian.

Why cannot two slender persons ever become great friends? Because they will always be slight acquaintances.

ALFALFA.

In September, I met a friend from Fresno county California, who informed me that many of the farmers of his county were making it very profitable to raise and fatten hogs on alfalfa. He says the hogs thrive finely on that feed alone, and get as fat as the butchers care to have them to cut up for fresh pork.

Alfalfa is much more fattening than any of our cultivated grasses except blue grass, and affords a much greater amount of feed. On bottom lands, in California, it will pasture three or four animals to the acre, through the dry season, and about half that in the rainy season. Raising the seed is very profitable, as it yields well, and the straw is valuable for winter feed. The hay is liable to scour driving horses, if fed freely. If good soil is selected, and well prepared for the seed, it seems to me that this grass should do well in Oregon, especially in the Summer months. It is worthy of a fair trial. The ground should be thoroughly tilled, and free from all foul weeds, grass, fern, or wild oats to choke the grass. It should be finely pulverized and rolled to make it smooth, before seeding, and then lightly harrowed (after seeding) with a light harrow, with the teeth well slanted back, to prevent covering too deep, and then rolled again. If a light harrow is not to be had, a light brush will answer, especially if the seeding is just before a rain about the last of April, or first of May. The roller, after the brush, would be beneficial. Grass seed will take best where the surface is packed a little, after being finely pulverized. An experiment on a small scale, will cost but little and if our climate should prove favorable to alfalfa, its introduction would be of great benefit to the State, and a small piece would soon furnish seed for an increased acreage of grass. The man who gives this grass a successful introduction here, and can teach others to cultivate it successfully, will be a public benefactor. S. PELTON.

From Josephine County.

Perhaps a few local items from this part of Oregon would be of some interest to the farmers. We have just had some nice gentle showers out here which have saturated the ground sufficiently, in many places, and the farmers have commenced plowing, and sowing their fall grain. Josephine county farmers are turning their attention more to grain raising, than they have done heretofore; there are two excellent grist mills now in the county, one located at Murphy, and owned by J. Wimmer and son, and the other at Kerbyville, and owned by J. B. Sifers of that place. Many new comers have settled on Willams creek, and elsewhere in the county within the last year; others are said to be on their way here. Mining interests are looked after, and everything looks favorable for a good winter's run. Josephine Grange has built a good, substantial, and commodious hall, where they can meet once a month, and talk about farm matters. The State Creek Lodge of G. T. is said to be getting along finely; it has done a noble work; long may it prosper. S. M. Jess, near this place has gone into the tobacco cultivation quite extensively this season, and intends to raise the weed for sale, if he makes a success of it, and he is sanguine he will; next year he will engage largely in its cultivation and manufacture. The Rogue River saw-mill company at the mouth of Rogue river have had a good many sugar-pine logs cut to drive down the river to their mills. Should they be successful in driving them, they will purchase timber lands in this section and have a great many logs cut to be made into lumber, for the San Francisco markets. I hope the P. of H. and the farmers generally throughout Oregon, will subscribe for the WILLAMETTE FARMER, a journal that has always upheld the interests of the farmer, and is not slow in showing up the dark ways of monopolies and corporations. SEDLY AUSTIN. Wilderville, Nov. 4th.

Grange Anniversary.

The Patrons of Happy Home Grange No. 46 of the Patrons of Husbandry met in a special meeting, November 8th 1877 and celebrated the fourth anniversary of their organization, in a manner highly satisfactory to all present. Happy Home Grange meets regularly, as published in the WILLAMETTE FARMER. We are glad at all times to have our brothers and sisters of sister Granges meet with us and take counsel together, in order that we may have that hope and encouragement necessary to prosecute to a successful issue the great and good work so nobly begun. THOS. R. BADGER, Sec. Lebanon, Nov. 9, 1877.

Two squaws in Tacoma gave a boy a dollar to get them a bottle of whisky one day this week, and the boy forgot what he went for. The squaws did not get the whisky or see the boy again. Good little boy. He will grow up to be an Indian agent.

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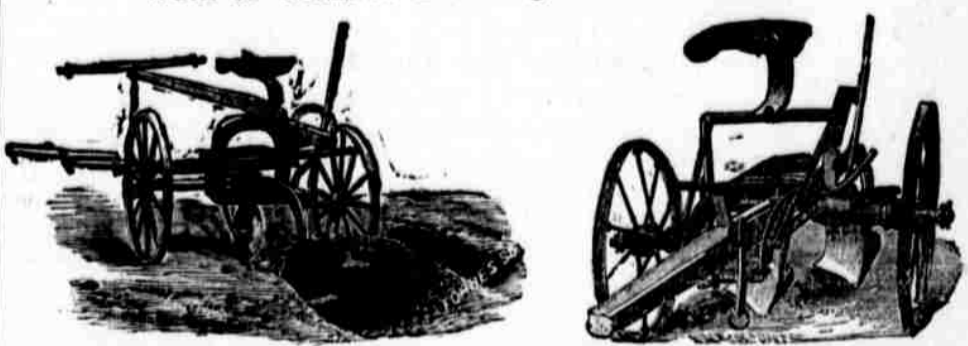
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