

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The secretary of war in his report says the Indian war, Mexican troubles and July riots were a severe tax on the army. It was impossible with our small army to concentrate a heavy force at any one place without leaving many forts, arsenals and other property without protection. He recites the difficulty and expense of moving troops during the recent calls for military aid and claims that the presence of a strong force is the best preventive of Indian wars and riots. He refers to affairs on the Rio Grande and the necessity of United States troops crossing the frontier in pursuit of marauders; recommends legislation to increase the efficiency of the signal service, and for the continuance of surveys of the western states and territories, the latter being found of special use in Indian campaigns.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—The Journal's Washington special says the president's message on the whole is criticised as a very strong and able state paper; especially is it acceptable to the hard money men.

Comments on the president's message in Washington seem this far to refer almost solely to his vigorous resuming the silver question, and are colored in exact accordance with individual views upon that subject. It gives great satisfaction to the opponents of the silver bill, the friends of which on the other hand denounce it unsparsingly as a surrender to Secretary Sherman and the eastern bondholders. No doubt is expressed, however, that it will have a very powerful effect in shaping the senate's action on the question, as it is intended to be a direct intimation that in case its main proposal is not adopted by congress the president intends to make use of his veto.

The Herald's Washington special says: Basis will be stated within the present week, and when he is sworn in the states of the union will be more fully represented in the senate, and the war will be over at last, and there would seem to be after that no further reason to speak of the southern question.

Both houses meet tomorrow at 10 o'clock, and will be in session until a few minutes before 12 M.

It is understood that an adjournment must be had in order to prevent questions arising hereafter upon a technical issue—at least that is Gen. Butler's opinion, and in it he is sustained by the leader of the house—(Wood) As the house is already organized and no longer need be by a joint committee waiting upon the president and informing him that congress is ready to receive any communication he may have to make, there is no reason why the message should not be in hand by 1 o'clock, and business of the regular session of the 45th congress opened the first day of the session.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Gen. Harlan will arrive here Saturday next and take his seat on the following Monday as associate justice of the supreme court.

Dec. 4.—Orders have been issued for the departure of a number of troops, cavalry, artillery and infantry, to the Rio Grande for the security of the people from raiding parties.

Blaine arrived here this evening in poor health, and is described by a fellow traveler as looking like a disappointed, broken down man, his manner indicating pain and his talk bitterness of spirit. He intends to be present at the Thursday session of the senate, Springfield, Mass., Dec. 3.—A consultation of physicians this evening decides that while Mr. Bowles' condition is dangerous and doubtful, it is not now as hopeless as it appeared Saturday and Sunday.

New York, Dec. 4.—In the suit of the people against ex Comptroller Connolly his counsel consented to a judgment that the sum claimed, over \$800,000, and the jury accordingly awarded him a verdict for that amount.

New York, Dec. 3.—The Tribune's special from Washington says: It is now said Siding Bull and his chiefs misunderstood the offer of our government; that they now state they did not refuse to return. The inference is that had they understood they would have returned. The rapidity of Terry's speech and hasty manner in which the affair was conducted give color to this story.

FOREIGN.

London, Dec. 2.—The Russians on the 28th ultimo attempted to push on from Etropol and lay siege to the southern junction of the road from Orhanis and Etropol, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

London, Dec. 4.—A Belgrade correspondent says Prince Milan reviewed the militia Sunday and exhorted them to their duty. The war office has ordered all district governors to erect hospitals. The most probable plan of operations is that Gen. Herzegovich will make a diversion in the rear of the Turks with two divisions. Gen. Gourko has promised to send him 8,000 cavalry.

A correspondent says according to latest letters, public feeling favors a rising after the fall of Plevna. The Greek government has warned Creans it will stop volunteers and supplies if they rise prematurely contrary to its advice.

Vienna, Dec. 3.—The bad feeling between Turkey and Italy grows out of representations by the Porte about a rumored Bulgarian incursion into Albania. Italy assured the Porte that the rumor was groundless, but the Porte refuses to accept this denial. There is a report from Rome that some other powers have also drawn the attention of Italy to the subject. If this is true, the Porte has succeeded in convincing others as well as itself that its representations are not altogether without foundation.

Constantinople, Dec. 4.—Mahomet Ali telegraphs to day: After violently cannonading our positions at Kamarti, the Russians furiously attacked our left wing. The battle

continued until evening. We retained our positions. The enemy retreated with considerable loss. We shall take the offensive to-morrow. The Russian imperial guard were engaged.

Heavy fighting was reported Friday in the direction of Ticoanova, from which place the Russians were ultimately driven, losing over 3,000 men.

It is also reported the Turks are now bombarding Timova.

Paris, Dec. 3.—Dufour has consented to act as intermediary between the left and President MacMahon. He has already specified to the president the concessions which the chamber could reasonably demand, and the president has distinctly agreed to them. M. Dufour will now ascertain from the majority the precise conditions on which it would accept the reconciliation, and will impress upon it the necessity of moderation. It is probable that M. Dufour's consultation with the president led to a report of the Temps to-day that he had been summoned to form a cabinet.

From Walla Walla.

Editor Willamette Farmer: Now that the busy season is over and the evenings growing long, perhaps a few scattering remarks from Walla Walla will be admissible in your columns.

We are blessed with an abundance of rain this fall, which enables the farmers to plow and sow to their hearts' content, and the opportunity is by no means neglected, but every acre that is in condition to insure half a crop for the next harvest is being plowed and sowed this fall. My observation, as well as limited experience is that farmers as a class have fallen into the error of producing a rotation of crops for successive years without resting their land, than which a great mistake was never made. It is true, we are comparatively free from the pests known to Oregon farmers, as sorrel and ferret; but we have the tumble weed and wild sunflower, which are so well adapted to the soil as to need but little cultivation to make them grow luxuriantly. I have found in certain localities, but it is the exception instead of the rule. As for sorrel, there is something peculiar either in the soil or climate that does not admit of its inflicting upon the rights of the farmer. A neighbor of mine has a small spot of it in his orchard, that has been there for a number of years without any apparent increase, and in fact it looks rather sickly compared with that on the other side of the farm that I used to own adjoining the college lot, St. Blinny, Oregon.

I am somewhat interested in the diemata along going on between G. W. Hunt and Taos. Cross on the subject of sorrels against thoroughbred hogs, and while I am opposed to dealing in personalities, I presume it is but fair to let them fight their own battles. I am pleased to note that Alfalfa is attracting some attention in your columns, and as I design experimenting some with it next season, I will gladly receive any information pertaining to its culture that may be forthcoming in your valuable paper. I know of a few instances in which it has been tried in this section of country, and it seems to be a fair success, not only on bottom, but on hill and gravel land. What we need in this vicinity is grass that will stand tramping and furnish the greatest amount of feed per acre. Diphtheria is still in our midst, and, tho' it seems to be abating, it is still a terror, and we hope that soon it may cease to exist. More in time. J. F. BRAWN. Walla Walla, Nov. 27.

WEATHER REPORT.

EOLEA, Dec. 3, 1877. During the month of November 1877, there were 20 days during which rain fell, giving an aggregate of 13 01 inches of water, four clear days, and six cloudy days, other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 46.74°. The highest daily mean temperature for the month, 55°, on the 15th. Lowest daily mean temperature, 37°, on the 20th.

The mean temperature for the month at two o'clock P. M., was 51°. Highest thermometer during the month, 62 at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 15th. Lowest thermometer 32° at 7 o'clock A. M. on the 20th.

Frosts occurred on the 20th and 27th.

The prevailing winds during the month, were from the South during 13 days; North, 6 days; Southwest 11 days. The largest rainfall for one day fell on the 21st amounting to 2.63 inches of water.

During November, 1876 there were 12 days during which rain fell and 5.96 inches of water; 6 clear and 8 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month 41.79°.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 51.29° on 14 and 24.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month 33° on 7th. T. PEARCE.

Frank Bros. & Co., of Portland, call attention to the fact that all the articles they exhibited at the late State Fair received premiums and that they received first premiums on the La Belle Wagon, Black Hawk and Clipper Walking Plow, and the Brown Gang Plow and Sulky Plow. They have a full assortment of all these desirable articles constantly on hand.

The receipts of the Old Folks' concert were about \$200.

Alsike and White Clover.

In looking over quite a number of seed catalogues, I find that they call alsike clover the "giant" white clover. This is all wrong, it is not the giant white clover. In the Agricultural report for the year 1865 is a report from the home of the alsike clover, and in this report there is not one word that could be construed to mean "giant" white clover. Men that have the seed of the alsike clover for sale, and men that have this clover as pasture or meadow, should learn to call it by its right name—alsike or Sweden clover. Now as for "giant" white clover, I will say, that the giant, or mammoth white clover is much like the common red clover; it grows just as tall, has more stalks, and, I think, less leaves on or about the stalks, with a white bloom as the creeping white clover, I call it creeping because it will creep along on top of the ground, it propagates itself to a great extent in this way. I have the giant white clover; it can be seen by any one on the writer's farm. Last summer it grew about three and a half feet high. Clackamas county. H. B. M.

The annual report of the postmaster general shows that the whole number of complaints of lost registered letters during the year was 2,283, with a report aggregate value of \$51,410, of which 774 letters were recovered, and \$10,510, accounted for by the recovery of their contents from persons who had stolen them, or through whose carelessness they were lost. The percentage of actual losses compared with the total number of letters registered during the year, viz., \$4,338,127, is about one-fiftieth of 1 per cent., or one in every 5,000 registered letters sent through the mail. Many of the losses occurred from unavoidable causes, such as railroad and steamboat accidents, fires, etc.

ON THE FLY.—"Landlord?"
"Yes, sir."
"What's that?"
"Butter, sir."
"Does it belong to the league?"
"Sir?"
"Has it any ambition to excel as a base ballist?"
"I don't grasp your meaning, sir."
"Well, it should, for it's the best fly-catcher I ever saw."
"Oh, I see! John, take this away, and bring the gentleman some of the muffin butter."
Silence prevailed.

An interesting letter relating to the Yamhill Narrow Gauge Railroad is received too late for insertion this week, and will appear next. The writer says subscriptions come in rapidly, \$30,000 being already subscribed. The capital stock is \$100,000.

HOLIDAY GOODS.—See the advertisement of Mr. and Mrs. Conn's new variety store, on State Street, formerly occupied by Mrs. Beardly, in Patton's Block. They have just opened a large assortment of goods suited to the season and attractive to buyers from town or country.

Magazines.

Scribner's for December is at hand, containing, it seems to us, more than the usual variety and more than usual amount of matter, as if determined to close the year with all possible excellence. Its opening article entitled "The Wooden Age," with illustrations, depicts the life of the lumberman; it has a vivid description of the "Thoroughbred Horse" with charming illustrations of an English fox hunt; oysters also have a share of the interest of this number; a paper on travel takes one from the Atlantic to the Andes and tells of the progress of Brazil under Dom Pedro; microscopic studies tell about "Ants"; Mars and his Moons are treated of; the Serial stories are continued, and we have poetry, fiction, romance and editorial paragraphs to constitute the bulk of the volume.

Cut His Hand.
Mr. Wm. Underwood, of this city, yesterday had the misfortune to cut his hand with a hand axe. It is rather a bad cut and the chances are that Mr. U. will lose one of his fingers by the operation.

Letter from Hon. Wm. Cyrus.

GRAND HOTEL, CINCINNATI, Nov. 22, 1877.

ED. FARMER: Accompanying this I mail to you a copy of "Cincinnati Grange Bulletin," the first Grange daily issued. It contains more of the proceedings of the National Grange than I can find time to write you. Some, and perhaps much of its contents would be interesting to the readers of the FARMER. Make such extracts as you may deem proper for the interest of your readers. I will mail one number each day during the Session.

We have had a pleasant trip; met and made many pleasant acquaintances and seen many magnificent improvements, but the most cheering things that we have seen are the members of the National Grange from nearly every State in these United States, here meeting together and working harmoniously for the good of all; no North, no South here; all earnestly engaged for the good, and the good only of the laboring classes. Our work is the work of peace and good will among men, and the cultivation and elevation of productive industry. We cannot help but succeed; our mission is not a selfish one, but means to stimulate the productions of the earth which is the source of all wealth.

Oregon is my home, I have seen much good country and good improvements, but none so good for me as Oregon all that I have seen have drawbacks as well as Oregon, and to me more objectionable; and as she was the love of my youth, and the cradle of my children, so shall she be my nurse in old age, and my resting place in death, should I live to return to her again.

I have written more than I intended when I commenced; if you can make it of any use to your columns do so, if not consider me a well-wisher to the success of you and your paper, and consign this to the waste basket.

Yours as ever,
WILLIAM CYRUS.

Raising Grain.

ED. FARMER: I have been raising grain in Oregon for the past 20 years, and have used almost all kinds of machines in harvest, and this year I used a self binder, and I consider it the cheapest machine I have ever used. With this machine any farmer can take care of all the grain that two teams will put in, and when his grain is ready, without any delay he can take his plow team and harvest the grain without having a whole army of horses to feed, and men for his wife to cook for, and when he has a field of grain ripe he can cut it and put it in shock and when he wants to thrash it he can get a machine to come and it is a short job. He can cut his grain ten days sooner than he can if he heads it, and he will prevent the wild oats from falling on the ground to come up the next year. I know of a field where there was as much as ten bushels to the acre of wild oats, and if the grain was cut at the right time, this would be saved, and it is worth saving for feed, and is not left on the ground to grow; that is one reason why our land does not produce more than it does, there is something growing on it all the time. If we will reap our grain for five years we will raise five bushels more to the acre, then we will get rid of the cockle and French pink that is taking so many farms all over the country. We will have our harvest from two to three weeks sooner than we do now, for the longer we head our grain, the later our harvest will be. I can take a Walter A. Wood's harvester and self binder, and three small horses, and cut 300 acres. More anon.

A FARMER.

The Methodist society will not have a Christmas tree this season.

LAST TRIP OF THE CHESTER.

Wm. J. Clarke, son of the editor of the Farmer, writing from San Francisco, November 27th, says that he arrived the evening before, and that the first two days of the passage down on the City of Chester was very rough; that when they were crossing the Columbia river bar a man was lost overboard, and another man was killed by a horse falling on him, and the horse, a valuable one, belonging to an officer, was also killed. He, himself, received a severe cut in the face from a piece of glass from his state-room window, which was broken by the waves breaking over the ship. After the first two days the trip was pleasant. He says Capt. Bowles declared it the worst experience he had ever known in all his weathering on this coast.

The San Francisco Post has the following graphic account of the trip:

The City of Chester which arrived here from Portland yesterday, experienced some of the roughest weather at the Columbia river bar that has been known on that line. She left Portland on Thursday at two P. M., in a light snow storm. On Friday afternoon she arrived off the bar. A southwest gale, with rain, was blowing, and the sea was running in the style which fine weather calls mountain high. Despite the rough weather, however, it was determined to attempt to cross, and the steamer started into the rollers. In a few moments the rolling was something terrible. The vessel seemed to vibrate with the passengers in standing on its head, turning itself inside out and like erratic performances. A short experience of the terrible sea that was running sufficed to put all the passengers in a panic-stricken condition. Prayer meetings were organized in the saloon, all taking a prominent part and expecting death at any moment. The captain, however, saw no immediate danger until well across the bar, when he espied three tremendous rollers making one after the other in the direction of the steamer. The danger was imminent, but nothing could be done, and the first and second broke before reaching the vessel. The third, however, struck it, and the timbers from stem to stern quivered and strained. The steeple windows were all broken in, and the streams of water and the broken glass caused the shivering beings there to imagine that they had already gone down. All the glass in the pilot house was cut clean away, a portion of the railing let go and flew off to leeward, and wreck and ruin prevailed among all the lighter furnishings of the vessel. One of a pair of valuable horses had its brains dashed out, and killed, while in its last agonies a man was killed; who was trying to prevent them being injured by the rolling. This, however, was the worst, and the sea moderated a little, so that the vessel got safely into San Francisco.

Hubbard and Woodburn.

WOODBURN, Nov. 27, 1877. Notwithstanding this part of the country has been rather slow in its progress, yet its development is going on with a sure and firm step, and from the outlook and bright future this place and our sister city Hubbard will be the two leading places in the lower end of Marion county. A few years ago Hubbard was scarcely known, yet business is good and increasing. There are four warehouses in the place. Woodburn has two of the best warehouses on the road, and some of the best residences. Its farming surroundings are not surpassed by any in this county. Mathiot Bros. have thus far since harvest begun shipped one hundred and eighteen car-loads of grain and have now on hand twenty-three thousand bushels of oats, which is the largest quantity stored at any one place on the railroad, and I besides this a large amount of wheat. There is now here a company proposing to build a large flouring mill. Several town lots were sold in this place in the last week. The daily sales of fruit trees from Mr. Settlemier's Nursery are five hundred, and are sent by large quantity to Eastern Oregon. M.

A Correction.

A short time since we made a statement that a wagon maker was wanted at Turner. We were in error when we said Turner; it should have been Sublimity, as Turner is already provided with a wagon maker.