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Terms of Subscription. One copy, one year (52 numbers) \$2.50

SALEM, FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 1878.

New Grasses—New Names for old Kinds.

ED. FARMER: I see by the FARMER and other papers that the mesquite grass is the last speciality of interest to those seeking a variety of grass that will stand the test of trial upon the ordinary uplands of the Pacific coast.

Meadow soft grass, velvet grass, (Holcus lanatus) has its spikelets crowded in a somewhat open panicle, and an awn with the lower part perfectly smooth.

This species grows from one to two feet high, stem erect, round, root perennial, fibrous, leaves four or five, with soft, downy sheaths, upper sheath much longer than its leaf, inflated, ligule obtuse, joints usually four, generally covered with soft, downy hairs, the joints of which are terminated downward; leaves pale green, flat, broad, acute, soft on both sides, covered with delicate slender hairs.

The experience of farmers of Clatsop county where, under the influence of the sea air, this grass seems to find its very best conditions, accords with the above description, and observant dairy keepers say it is not as good a butter making grass as the native and cultivated grass that it is largely superseding.

These mesquite grasses, the running and the curly, are very good, but they do not hold very good through winter. The mesquite grass is a species of arista, and though only two mentioned sorts enter into the sheep man's summer calculations, there are at least ten other varieties which more or less sparsely appear during winter.

This winter mesquite is likely what we call poverty grass, a variety of arista.

Now, Mr. Editor, this extract points

to a number of grasses called mesquite, notable as the best for sheep pasture in the dry hot plains of western Texas where the prickly pear finds a congenial home, and where its ripe fruit and the beans of the mesquite trees (mimosa algarobita and glandulosa) forms resources of dependence to the herdsman for stock feed, and should for that reason engage the largest attention of residents east of the Cascade mountains who desire to replace forage plants that are disappearing from their ranges, not believing that the same grass which as velvet grass finds its best condition on the seaward side of the coast mountains, is a good grass for the moist soils and atmospheres of the tall fern lands of the foot hills and mountain valleys.

I would be glad to exchange sample seeds by mail with any reader of the FARMER who thinks he has the true mesquite grass. J. MINTO.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—We have furnished Mr. Minto, since the above was written, with two specimens of so-called mesquite grass, viz. some of that raised by Mr. John Simpson on the Sulslaw, and also a specimen of that raised by Mr. Levi Bartimas, on the North Santiam, in Marion county. Mr. Wm. Knight, of Canby, also writes that he has sent us a box of the growing grass, such as grows there under that name.

GRAIN IN YAMHILL.—From a gentleman living on the south fork of the Yamhill river, in Yamhill county, who is a careful man and whose statements are every way reliable, we learn that there are 60,000 bushels of wheat in the granaries of farmers living on the north side of the south fork, between McMinnville and Sheridan. The condition of the roads is such that this grain will not be marketed before May or June.

Referee's Sale of Land. BY virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the county of Marion, made October 17th 1877, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on Tuesday, the 26th day of February, 1878, at the hour of one o'clock p. m. of said day, and at the court-house door in Salem, in said county, the following described tract of land, late the property of A. O. Jacobs, now deceased: Commencing at the W. E. corner of the S. E. qr. of Sec. 1, in T. 8 N., R. 1 W., in Marion county, Oregon, running to and on 50.00 chains, thence S. 43.00 ch. to the N. 20.00 ch., thence S. 10.00 ch., thence W. 40.00 ch., thence N. 20.00 ch., thence W. 20.00 ch., thence N. 20.00 ch., thence E. 60.00 ch., to place of beginning, containing 432 acres, more or less, and reserving out of the same a tract of about ten acre call'd the Saw-mill property.

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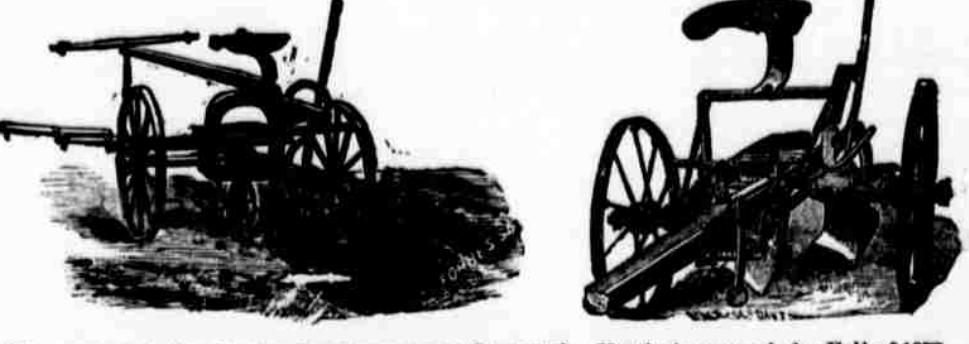
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Students, on arriving in the city, are requested to call at once on the Dean, who will furnish all necessary information, and otherwise provide for their accommodation. Letters addressed to the Dean will receive prompt attention. L. L. HOWLAND, M. D., Dean.

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