

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

ORCHARD GRASS.

BY ALEXANDER HYDE.

We have recently been cutting a two-acre orchard lot of orchard grass, (*Dactylis glomerata*), or rough cockfoot as the English farmers call it, and desire to call the attention of American farmers to the value of this grass both for hay and grazing. We are fully persuaded that there is no grass that yields equally well, and few, if any, varieties that are superior to it in quality, if it is only cut early. This is the twentieth year that we have cut orchard grass from this same orchard, and the yield this summer could not have been less than two tons per acre, about the same that it has been for a score of years, or since it was first seeded. This is what may literally be called a perennial grass—lasting many years. We know of no grass that better deserves the name of permanent. What is another great recommendation of orchard grass, is that it starts early in the spring and keeps on growing till late in the autumn. If cut in June, as it always should be, just as it comes into bloom, the second crop will be ready for harvesting early in August, and the yield of rowen will be half to two-thirds of the first growth.

As to the quality of orchard grass, we prefer it for horses to timothy, and, if cut early, cows and sheep eat it with avidity and thrive upon it. As a pasture grass, and as forage for soil-feeding, we know nothing equal to it. Just to ascertain the preference of cows, we one year, after the hay harvest, opened two contiguous lots of about the same size, one stocked with orchard grass and the other with timothy, red top, and clover, giving the stock the choice of the lots, and we noticed that the cows were in the orchard grass at least three-fourths of the time. We never had cows do better, either grazing or stall fed, than when their principal food was orchard grass. If the land is rich, and naturally a little moist, we believe that an acre of this grass will furnish more grazing or hay than two acres of timothy.

The readers of *The Times* not rely upon one authority solely, we will quote what Secretary Flint, of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, says of orchard grass: "This is one of the most valuable and widely known of all the pasture grasses. It is common to every country in Europe, to the north of Africa, and in Asia, as well as America. Its culture was introduced into England from Virginia in 1764. It forms one of the most common grasses of English natural pastures on rich, deep, moist soils. It becomes, soon after its introduction into England, an object of special agricultural interest among cattle feeders, having been found to be exceedingly palatable to stock of all kinds. In rapidity of growth, the luxuriance of its stems, and its power of enduring the cropping of cattle, command a high place to the farmer's care, especially as a pasture grass. As it blossoms earlier than timothy and about the time of red clover, it makes an admirable mixture with that plant to cut in the blossom and cure for hay. As a pasture grass it should be fed close, both to prevent its running to seed, when it loses a large proportion of its nutritious matter, and becomes hard and wiry. All kinds of stock eat greedily when green."

Judge Bush, the founder of the Albany *Cultivator*, and a man of close discernment in agricultural matters, says: "The American cocksfoot, or orchard grass, is one of the most abiding grasses that we have. It is probably better adapted than any other grass to sow with clover and other seeds for a permanent pasture or for hay, as it is fit to eat with clover, and grows remarkably quick when cropped by cattle. Five or six days' growth in summer suffices to give a good bite. Its good properties consist in its early and rapid growth, and in its resistance of drought. Sheep will pass over every other grass to feed upon it."

Mr. Sanders a practical Kentucky farmer, says: "My observation and experience have induced me to rely mainly on orchard grass and red clover; indeed, I now sow no other sort of grass seed. These grasses mixed make the best hay of all the grasses for this climate, (Kentucky); it is nutritious and well adapted as food for stock. Orchard grass is ready for grazing in the spring 10 or 12 days sooner than any other that affords a fair bite. When grazed down and the stock turned off, it will be ready for regrowth in less than half the time required for Kentucky blue grass. It stands a severe drought better than any other grass, keeping green and growing when other sorts are dried up; in summer it will grow more in a day than blue grass will in a week."

With such authorities in favor of orchard grass it would seem that nothing more need be said; but these authorities have been before the country for years, and still we see comparatively little of this grass cultivated. Farmers stick to the traditional timothy as though there was no other grass fit for making into hay, and as a matter of fact, we find only a few farmers who know any thing about orchard grass—can't tell it when they see it. Many of them have an idea that it is coarse, wiry stuff, fit only for truck horses. This prejudice probably arises from the old custom of cutting grass after it had gone to seed. In this stage of the growth orchard grass is pretty tough, but even then it contains more albuminous or flax-like protein principle than timothy. The truth is, to cut orchard grass, however, is in June—this year it was fit for cutting by the middle of June—and cut at this time there is no better hay for stock of all kinds.

The analysis of this grass, as given in Flint's work on grasses, shows the following results, when taken from the following:

Percent.	
Aluminoids.....	4.00
Fatty matters.....	94
Mucil., sugar, &c.....	13.30
Woody fibre.....	10.11
Mineral matter.....	1.50
Water.....	70.40
Total.....	100.00

When dried at 32° deg., orchard grass gives 13.33 per cent. of albuminous or flesh-forming principles, while dry timothy gives only 11.30 per cent.

As its name implies, orchard grass is just the variety to grow in an orchard, or any shady place, it was with reference to this that we first sowed it a score of years since. But it no means follows that an orchard or oak opening is the only place where this grass does well. Where no timothy will thrive orchard grass will grow. The country soil for it is one that is naturally a little moist, but with a dry subsoil, in which its fibrous roots can penetrate to an unlimited

depth. We sowed it at first in an orchard, and afterward in an open field, and now it is to be found all over the farm, as far as farmers say, but probably the seeds were scattered by birds, or carried out in the top dressing. It thrives everywhere, except on sandy or gravelly soil.

Mr. L. F. Allen, in a recent article the Country Gentleman, speaks of having grown orchard grass for 40 years on the same spot, and of its producing as well now as ever; this experience is longer than ours, but with similar results. He says: "Any good plow soil, no matter if ironclad and clavate in composition, will yield orchard grass in perfection." He also adds: "I admit it does not make a marketable hay, as most men who buy don't know anything about timothy—a very common sort, in my opinion, of farm stock, and quite inferior to the mixed grasses usually grown. If I were ten years younger, and lived on my farm myself, I could have 100 acres of orchard grass meadow in two years from this."

There is no spot on which wavy-leaf, velvet, or other grasses grow, and the lawn. Now, on the contrary, it shows up the right grass to be visibly above all the other grasses. It has a rapid growth, and is almost impossible to pull it short of root. As the Irishman said of his board, "Cut it off yesterday and sure it is here again to day." This may be held adverse to lawns and faces, but it is good for pasture and meadow.

In stocking with this grass we recommend a liberal allowance of seed, at least two bushels to the acre, and it should be evenly scattered, as the grass is inclined to grow in bunches. Red clover is a good accompaniment to orchard grass, as the two ripen about the same time and the latter helps to keep the clover up.

We never recommend anything to farmers with more confidence than we do orchard grass. We have known many to try it upon recommendation, and none, so far as we know, has been disappointed in results.—N. Y. Times.

Items from Union County.

Mountain sentinel.

Two blacksmiths in Union, who had the contract for shoeing Captain Miles' horses, struck a "fat take."

Travel has been resumed on the Meacham road, although it is not considered perfectly safe, as small detached bands of Indians are thought to be scouting all through the mountains.

W. R. Minor, of the Cove, was suddenly taken very sick on Sunday last, from an unknown cause but the general supposition was that he had, while eating raspberries, swallowed a poisonous bug. His suffering was intense and almost beyond endurance.

Not a freight train has passed for over one month. The terrible fate of Smith, Myers, McLaughlin and McCoy has had a blighting effect on the freighting business on this route. Herein is one of our heavy losses caused by the Indian war which cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

From the farmers residing in different parts of the county we learn that the crops are not up to the average. The hay crops will also fall short of the usual yield. The partial failure of the cereals will not seriously affect us, as we, not having a market for our surplus grain, do not depend upon it as a source of revenue; but a light hay crop may seriously affect our interests, as the chief wealth of Eastern Oregon lies in our immense herds of cattle, horses and sheep. Take care of them and they will take care of you. So we say, farmers, make hay while you can, and make all you can. There is every indication that a larger number of stock will be wintered in this valley.

Dayton and Sheridan Railroad.

On the steamship Great Republic arrived 1,500 rails, and the locomotive Progress, for the Dayton and Dallas railroad, besides a large quantity of fish plates. The locomotive was lowered to the dock yesterday morning in good order, and placed on the steamer McMinnville, and was no very easy job, as the engine weighed ten tons. About 250 rails were also placed on the McMinnville, which will be discharged at Dayton. The steamer Ohio also took on 30 tons of rails and left this morning for the same destination.

About six miles of the road is now completed and track laying progresses at the rate of a mile a day. The Pioneer, with four flat cars as a construction train, carries the material to the front, and under the manipulations of Superintendent Anderson, will jog right along.

Accident at Yaquina.

Mr. T. H. Cox received a letter from his daughter yesterday containing the startling intelligence that Mrs. Cox was severely hurt by a log rolling over her, and requesting him to come there immediately. No particulars were given as to how the accident occurred, or how badly she was injured. Colonel Cox left last evening for Yaquina by team, going by way of King's Valley. He expects to be at the Bay tomorrow evening, when we shall probably hear of the nature and extent of Mrs. Cox's injuries. Statesman.

Communications.

The commissions of the following officers were made out yesterday, and signed by Gov. Chadwick, with the seal of the State placed thereon: J. L. Sperry, Company A, Captain Pendleton, Volunteers, and First Lieutenant Charles Murphy, and Second Lieutenant, J. McThomas of the same company. The commissions are dated July 17, 1877.

Returned.

Mr. Beach, who has been operating in Eastern Oregon, in La Grande and vicinity, in the employ of Gardner Bros., returned last Monday with his family, who have been with him. He has done an extensive business in Eastern Oregon. Mr. B. says there is considerable uneasiness felt in that section yet regarding the Indians.

Notary Publics.

The following persons were appointed Notary Publics yesterday by Governor Chadwick: Albert H. Kennedy, Roseburg; John Bellamy, Baker City; C. H. Woodward, F. M. Stump and E. W. Ryan, Portland.

THE HOP MARKET.

Philip Wolf & Co., Commission Merchants, San Francisco, in this semi-annual hop circular, say:

It is a well known fact to every person engaged in the hop trade that this line of business during the season just terminating has been extremely unsatisfactory and disastrous to a great number of growers, in so far that when sales were not made during harvest or immediately thereafter, prices declined materially so that quite a number of growers were crippled, not being able to meet their ordinary business obligations.

For the same reason, many old and well known hop houses in the East and Europe, that purchased in anticipation of an improvement in price as the season advanced, had to succumb, and fail in their business.

In addition to low prices during last season, white European and Eastern yields, on the average, were abundant and of fine, heavy quality. California hops were short in quantity, and the entire crop of the coast was not up in quality to previous years, attributable no doubt, in California, to the extremely dry weather of the winter of 1876-77.

The average quality of California hops was inferior to that we are under the necessity of recording the fact that they were neglected to a large extent in the New York and London markets, entailing a loss, in nearly every instance, to exporters. The product of our neighboring State of Oregon was particularly inferior. The growers having had extremely unfavorable weather during picking time, sent to this market nothing but badly cured, tough, rusty hops, of coarse texture.

On the other hand we are but too glad to report that the hops of Washington Territory, grown on the sound, have shown a material improvement as to flavor, color and cleanliness, over previous pickings.

The proper light pressed bales, furnishing such as 100 to 170 lbs., have also in most instances been adopted, and if our friends in that section will continue to improve, their hops will soon enjoy a fine reputation.

We again caution growers in the last named section and Oregon not to use wrapping paper of any sort inside bales; a proper baling cloth is sufficient to protect hops against emergencies.

Priests in the San Francisco market, for the season under review, commenced, for early varieties at 15 cents, receding however in September and October, before any lots of note were taken for export, to 10@12c, and subsequently rising at 7@9 for California choice, and 7@8 for Washington Territory. Inferior grades of all sorts sold as low down as 3@5, and were but "buy" at that price, as inferior hops in a year of plenty are almost worthless.

Assisted before, the crop of our entire coast fell short and did not reach 12,000 bales of 200 lbs. each. Present stock, mostly in warehouses at San Francisco, about 1,500 bales, the largest portion of which however is of very inferior quality. While, as we stated at the outset, the past hop season has been a very unprofitable one to growers as well as merchants, we would at the same time say to those hop growers who have been fortunate enough to weather it through, that there is still no cause to despair. Adverse seasons will occasionally come up, but a change for the better often steps in when we least expect it, and we give as our advice to farmers who have not lost all faith in hop raising, to persevere and take the best of care of their yards, harvest and cure in the best possible manner, and send nothing but a choice article to market.

Our report from the most important hop-growing districts in Europe and the Eastern States are that the weather has not been very propitious for the growing plants, and as we, in this section, are solely governed by prices of the London and New York markets, a deficient or bad crop elsewhere would enhance prices for our product here, materially, provided the quality of our crop will be up to the mark. Neglect nothing and exert yourself to the utmost to produce a fine quality of hops. We particularly request you to write us immediately as to the state of your plants and those of your neighbors, giving us probable yield and quality of your district, and informing, at the same time, your friends, that we cannot reach, as to our request.

At date of writing choice California hops of 1877, for home consumption, are nominal, ruling at 76@9, and little is being done.

Truly yours, PHILIP WOLF & CO.

Items from Umatilla County.

East Oregonian.

Buck Indians do not visit Pendleton of late. They have been too insolent for the citizens to bear with them.

We anticipate trouble with the Umatilla and Columbia River Indians at an early day. They are growing more and more restless every day.

Umapine, Wenap Snoot, Cormoyer, Old Stock, Walasac and the other reservation Indians, have proved the worst enemies the whites have had during the present outbreak in this part of the country.

John Bowman returned from Col. Mizner's command on the Blue Mountains with his wagon last Monday. When within a few miles of Cayuse station he was fired on by Indians, and chased for some distance. He saw five and thinks he killed one of them. Of course it is claimed they were snakes, but everybody here is satisfied they were reservation Indians.

Another Branch Line.

The McMinnville Reporter says the narrow gauge proprietors propose to give us a railroad, if the citizens will pay for the iron, and then take up this indebtedness in freights. Let our business men look into this, and if found practical, by no means let it pass unheeded.

Senator Mitchell is in San Francisco.

A New Cure for Scab.

A subscriber over in Polk, near Bethel tells of a neighbor, fond of trying experiments who tried a new remedy for cure of scab in sheep. Making a tank that looked like a tan yard vat he made a dip that looked like whitewash, then took a forked oak grab and plunged the sheep into the wash, completely immersing Mr. Sheep "then he let them out to eat grass, but behold every sheep went in his own gait and then the oak grubs and the sheep's heads had it which and tooth; it was bump on this side and bump on that side, making the bark fly every dash. Now Mr. Elmer, if this is a good way to cure sheep I don't want to be a scab sheep."

Pacific University and Tualatin Academy.

In our advertising columns will be found the yearly announcement of these institutions located at Forest Grove and under the charge of President S. H. Marsh and a competent and well organized board of professors and teachers. This institution has a fine reputation in our state and deserves a fair share of patronage. Read the card of President Marsh and you will get particulars.

List of officers of Battle Creek Lodge, No. 307, I. O. G. T., for the term commencing August 1, 1878: A. G. Daardoff, C. T. Elda Wagner, V. T. Josie Daardoff, S. Sarah Smith, F. S. Wm. Savage, C. H. McIntire, T. Wm. Hodson, M. Clara Wagner, D. M. Gertrude Ruby, I. G. C. W. Barzse, O. G. Sadie Rodgers, R. H. S. Phelps Jory, L. H. Mary Jory, Lodge Deputy.

Health and Wealth.

Both may be easily attained by any one in heeding nature's warning and keeping a close watch over symptoms that may appear which invariably are the indications of an approaching illness. Many dollars can be saved and a great deal of suffering avoided by a little attention to the following symptoms, which are a sure sign that either the blood, liver, or digestive organs are out of order. Constipation, indigestion, fullness of the head, sour stomach, colic, tension, load upon the mouth, and often dry breath, dull, drowsy, and debilitated feeling, frequent tea baths, poor appetite, pain in the side, chest, and limbs, etc., etc. The highest medical authorities declare that over two-thirds of all diseases are caused either by an impure state of the blood or some derangement of the liver and digestive organs. When the blood is pure, the liver in proper action, and the bowel regular, no one can ever be seriously or dangerously sick. To purify the blood and thoroughly renovate the entire human system, nothing has ever received more flatirring certification than Oregon's best vegetable medicine, PEPPER'S OREGON BLEND PELLET. A single trial will convince any one that it is the most reliable remedy ever offered to the public. For sale by all druggists. Price, one dollar Principal Depot and Manufactury, Wm. Pepper & Co., Portland, Oregon.

The Centaur Liniments are of two kinds.

The White is for the human family; the Yellow is for horses, sheep, and other animals. Testimonials of the effects produced by these remarkable preparations are wrapped around every bottle, and may be procured of any druggist, or by mail from the Office of THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 46 Day Street, New York City.

Dr. Minnie's Vegetable Nephritis.

DO THIS CURSE EVERYTHING!

NOTE: It is intended for Diseases of the Kidney and Bladder. This great tonic supplies a want long felt by a certain class of sufferers, and is taking a high rank among medicinal agents, and is especially useful in making it a medicine for Kidney and Bladder complaints, the different ingredients of which is composed acting conjointly upon the muscular and mucous coats of these organs. Second. The combination is the result of large experience and careful study both of the disease and their drugs. Third. The best materials (which are purely vegetable) are selected and used in its manufacture. In some inflammation of the kidneys or bladder, pain and heaviness in the back and loins, with drowsiness and feeling of languor, the Nephritis will give immediate relief, and cure the disease, strictly following directions. Price, \$1.25.

Dr. Minnie's English Dandelion Pills.

DO THIS CURSE EVERYTHING!

NOTE: They are intended for diseases that result from Malaria Potions and a Drugged Liver.

Symptoms of a disordered liver—full pain in the side and shoulders, less appetite, coates tongue, costive bowels, sick headache, debilitated, weight in the stomach, ten swelling of the body, and loss of wind, loss of appetite, loss of energy, uneasiness, and freedom of exit. Delay is dangerous.

Many of the leading citizens of Portland, from experience, will vouch for the superior virtue and value of these two specialties. Price, 25 cents per box. To be obtained of all druggists.