

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE STATE.

We are not disposed to favor any reckless expenditure of money by the State, for any purpose whatever. Economy and efficiency in administration is the key note of all party platforms, and the people properly demand that all parties shall live up to it, but while this is true, it is also true that the State should foster public enterprises when they are of permanent necessity, as was the case in aiding construction of the canal and locks at Oregon City, which the State gave material aid to, thereby insuring to a great degree the welfare of the producers of the Willamette Valley, securing them returns that have over and again paid the cost, to the State, for aid granted this work.

We recognize only one other work of similar character in which the State can be called to take part, which will be to open up the Columbia river to free competition and so lessen the cost of transportation to the people of the upper country, all of whose business is transacted with our own metropolis, and so pays direct tribute to Oregon and deserves to be recognized as identified with our State.

The importance of this work does not need to be urged at this time, as it is too well understood to be necessary to argue upon it now. It will be granted that the construction of narrow track portage roads around the Dalles and the Cascades is necessary to the welfare of the upper country, which, at the best, is so remote from market as to make it doubtful if production can be remunerative. State aid to the amount of \$200,000, the same as granted to the locks at Oregon City, will insure construction of these portages, and probably the State can be secured in payment of interest on the investment. It is not probable that either the Northern Pacific railway or the government works to open canals and locks around these portages, can be completed in many years, and in the mean time the people of that vast and rapidly populating section are every year paying enough for transportation to build these roads, over what the cost would be if these portages were built and competition for transportation was free to all.

Our argument is brief, as follows: If the State had a right to aid the opening of transportation on the Willamette it has equal right to effect the same on the Columbia. The importance of the latter work even exceeds that of the former, and greater good will result and the work is more imperatively necessary to the welfare of the people interested. It will rapidly build up and improve all Eastern Oregon, and so add to the wealth and prosperity of the State as to increase its general prosperity, also, it appears invidious and illiberal to favor one section at the expense of the other, without reciprocity.

Measures are pending before the legislature to secure aid for such a purpose, and we bespeak for them fair attention and consideration. The time is not far distant when the political power of Eastern Oregon will be fully equal to that of western valleys, and we must not forget that with what measure we meet to them it may be measured to us again. This is a matter of such vital importance to them that Eastern Oregon members are excusable for pressing it earnestly at this time.

Varieties of Potatoes

CANBY, Sept. 18, 1878.

MR. EDITOR: This season I have tested the following varieties of potatoes, viz: The Burbank Seedling, Early Rose, Early Ohio, Early Vermont, Ruby, Eureka, Brownell's Beauty, Canby, Snowflake and Mehopac Seedling. I planted them side by side and gave them the same care and attention. My soil (Baker's Prairie) is a sandy loam, not so productive as the most of the soil of Oregon, but it produces potatoes of excellent quality. The Early Ohio ripened about two weeks, and the Early Vermont and Ruby fully a week, earlier than the Early Rose. The Early Rose, Early Ohio, Ruby, Brownell's Beauty and Snowflake, produced at the rate of about 137 bushels to the acre; the Eureka at the rate of 146, and the Early Vermont at the rate of 185 bushels per acre; the Mehopac Seedling at the rate of 2091; the Canby at the rate of 387; and the Burbank Seedling at the rate of 4591 bushels per acre. The Mehopac Seedling will rot, and is not worth cultivating. The Canby rotted some last year, but I have raised it for three years and find it an excellent late potato. The Burbank Seedling is a large, smooth, white potato, excellent for baking or boiling, with less small ones than any other kind which I know of, and I think it the best medium late potato that I have ever seen. I have raised five bushels and forty-four pounds from one pound of the Burbank.

AARON E. WAIT.

Letter from Clackamas County.

MR. EDITOR: Supposing that a few jottings from this county (Clackamas) would be of interest to you and your many readers, I thought I would write some that all might be informed of the good prospects as well as the poor. We are having the very best of weather for harvesting. All our grain is cut, and a good part of it is threshed, and those that had their grain threshed first are delivering the same at the mills and warehouses while they are having good roads. Some sell their wheat now for 85 cents per bushel, while others store their wheat for a higher price. Those that sell now say that it is better to sell now than to hold over, waiting for a higher price, and I don't know but they are right, taking into consideration the loss from vermin and shrinkage, which is about five per cent., say nothing of the difference in the roads where it is a good price. Wheat is yielding better than was expected before we began to thresh. The best yield I have heard of was about 30 bushels per acre, the poorest was about 10 bushels per acre; the former on slash, the latter on old land, this crop was the second on the same piece of land. Look at the contrast—thirty bushels of wheat on virgin soil, while old land brought ten. Now this shows that something is wrong, land losing sixty-six per cent. of its ingredients for the production of wheat, and yet farmers will go right along sowing wheat on this same piece of land. "Hold on," says one; "we summer-fallow, then sow our wheat on this summer-fallow; then next year we sow to oats." That is so, but don't you see that while you have done this that your land has lost sixty-six per cent., as above stated? Now, what you want to do is this: When you sow your wheat on summer-fallow you must sow the same to clover—red, alsike, or white. The red is the most economical because cheaper. Cut your wheat low so that there will not be too much straw on the land; the next year you will have a good crop of hay, and if you cut it early you can get a crop of seed that will be worth more than your wheat was the year previous; and after you cut the second crop of hay, and the seed of the aftermath is ripe, then turn it under and sow wheat about the 15th of September, and your land will grow in richness, same as your stock grow in price.

I feel like trying farming on a large scale when I see and know that clover will do so much for man if he will only heed the teachings of those that have tried it, and are willing to stake their all on some such process as the above. I believe that we can raise thirty bushels per acre, on an average, as easy as we raise sixteen. Why not? Because we don't follow the teachings of some good agricultural paper, like the WILLAMETTE FARMER. There is the whole thing in a nutshell.

I am writing too much, but must say that our oats are not so good as we thought. They are light in yield and light in the measure. The farmers are selling oats for 40 cents per bushel, delivered in Oregon City. Oats pay but little margin this year. Potatoes are scarce, and are selling for 75 cents per bushel. I am quite certain that we will not have more than half a crop. Farmers plant their potatoes too late; the dry weather cuts them short, and the early fall rains will not reclaim them. Hence we are not satisfied with farming, and get worse as we grow in years. LORAIN.

The Centennial Expense Account.

We are surprised that intelligent men should treat with indifference the proposition to reimburse the expenses actually incurred in making the Oregon exhibit at Philadelphia, and also to pay those who had charge of the exhibit a fair price for the time thus expended. We all know that the Centennial exhibit did a great deal to attract attention to Oregon and has resulted in great benefit to our State; this being so, we should not grudge a fair reward to the man whose energy, enterprise, and State pride were enlisted in the effort, and to whom we so greatly owe the success of the exposition. Mr. Dufur really was to blame for neglecting his own affairs and expending time and money, as he did, for the benefit of the State. No man should ever trust to the gratitude and appreciation of the public, but as Mr. Dufur did so trust us, and has done us great good, we should respect ourselves enough to recognize the value of his services and suitably reward them.

OREGON INVENTION.—F. W. Young, of Union county, has received through Dewey & Co., a patent for a grain separator of his invention.

The Insane Asylum.

MR. EDITOR: I am not in the habit of writing, but if I can say anything in regard to the Oregon Hospital for the insane that will be of any benefit to those that are so unfortunate as to have to be sent there, it certainly is my duty to do so. I have been an inmate there and know some things from experience.

Last year, after being sick for three months or more at home, I was taken to Portland and put in the Insane Hospital, and I remained there for three months and eleven days, in care of Dr. J. C. Hawthorne. Dr. Hawthorne was very kind to me, I believe he did all he could to make me comfortable while I was there, and to send me home well as soon as he could. I shall always feel very thankful to the Dr. for his kindness to me, and I think he deserves great praise for keeping everything neat and clean.

During my stay there I was blest with reason enough to take into consideration the condition of the asylum and its inmates; and, since I came home, I see, by conversing with people, that it is but very few persons that either know or think anything about this hospital, and I certainly do think that every person in this State ought to be interested in its management, and the laws in committing persons there.

When I was there I thought there ought to be another stockade for the convalescent, it is very disagreeable for a person that is getting well not to have any place outside where he can recreate or meditate only in a stockade filled with idiotic or raving crazy people.

I think that the law in committing persons to this hospital ought to be very particular in writing out commitments so as to explain as near as possible the exact condition of the patient to the doctor, and I think that the law ought to compel the friends of the person that is committed there to visit them often, and to talk with them, and do all they can to encourage them to get well. None but those that have been banished from home, in sickness of this kind, can realize how comforting it is to see and converse with friends from home, often, and to be assured by them, that although you are compelled to be away from home, and have none but strangers for companions, your friends are interested in you and are anxious for the time to come when you can return home and fill your place there. If my wife had not encouraged me in the way she did with visits and letters, and other kind friends also encouraged me, I believe that I would have died or become hopelessly insane, and I never can forget how others that were there, when I was, used to crave to see some of their folks from home. I hope that if any one reads this who has a friend in the asylum that they will go and visit them. J. C. WHITE.

Eola, Polk Co.

Oregon Seedling Peach.

MR. H. W. Prettyman sends us from his East Portland orchard a box with half a dozen seedling peaches, of which he says:

"They are seedlings of my own raising; the tree came into bearing last year at 4 years old. This peach took the first premium at the last State Fair for the best new seedling. I think it the finest cling peach that Oregon has ever produced. The tree is clear of blight and a great bearer. I am setting out an orchard of several hundred trees of this new peach for the Portland market. I want you to try it and see whether you think it is worthy of cultivation or not."

To this we respond that the peach is a beautiful fruit in appearance, large in size, and excellent in quality. It seems to deserve the award it received last fall at the State Fair and comes up to all he claims for it. Of course fruit originating in our State may be considered more suited to our climate than imported varieties, and if this peach will not blight it will prove a most valuable addition to Oregon pomology.

PRIVATE PREMIUMS.

I offer four beautiful premiums at our next State Fair for the largest and best display of dried fruits dried by the Plummer Process, packed and exhibited by the manufacturer, to be exhibited in grand pavilion built expressly for the purpose. I wish all who own Plummer Dryers to participate, as the State Fair promises to be a grand display of Oregon products and manufactures, and there is no doubt but that all that participate will be greatly benefited. W. S. PLUMMER.

Marion County Pomona Grange.

Marion county Pomona Grange will hold a regular quarterly meeting in Salem on Friday the 4th day of October next beginning at 11 o'clock a. m. The election of officers for the ensuing year with other important business will be transacted at this meeting. A full meeting is important. DAN'L CLARK, Master. Salem, Sept. 7th, 1878.

The White China Hog.

MR. EDITOR: In looking through the premium list offered by the State Agricultural Society for the present year, I notice what appears to me to be a very important omission, and I feel quite satisfied it is because their attention has not been called to the matter. It is this: in division D, under the head "Swine and Poultry," premiums are offered first for Berkshire; second, for Poland-China or Magic; third, Chester White; fourth, Essex; fifth, Graded. Now, Mr. Editor, there is another strain or breed of hogs in this State that I think worthy of encouragement, and they are not unknown to the farmers and butchers of Oregon. I refer to the White China, a small-boned, round, plump, heavy hog. It is the most docile, easy kept, easy fattened, and most profitable for the farmer of any other variety; and equally acceptable to the butcher as a small-boned, round-hammed, meaty hog. I feel safe in saying that, except on one point, they will be the most acceptable to the farmers of this valley of any other breed that is, they are not so prolific as some other breeds. It may be asked, with all those excellent and desirable qualities, why are they not more generally bred? I answer that the farmers have in this instance, as with the horse, been deceived from their real interest, and have run after fancy, far-sought, and expensive breeds, until to-day there are but few of the pure "Small" White China pigs to be found in the State. After making considerable inquiry and search, I found and bought a pair of those pigs that are represented as being pure White China, which I intend to put on exhibition at approaching State Fair, if I shall be allowed a pen to put them in. Still, I believe they ought to be allowed to compete with others for a premium. I hope the Board will take this matter under advisement at their first meeting on the Fair ground, to the end that justice may be done, as I'm satisfied that the testimony of every man that has ever owned the White China pig will be that they will produce more meat for the amount of feed, and with less trouble, than any other breed.

DAN'L CLARK.

Pleasant Point Farm, Marion Co.

OREGON FRUITS AT PARIS EXPOSITION.

Among the awards at Paris Oregon figures well, and among the rest W. S. Plummer receives a gold medal for his magnificent display of dried fruits. He sent to Paris the same display that was exhibited last fall at our State Fair, including 80 boxes elegantly put up in glass, making a fine showing. This introduction of our fruits to the notice of European epicures is calculated to give us a good market there in the future. Mr. Plummer is putting up many new machines, and Oregon orchards will be more productive as the business of fruit drying increases. Tuesday he put a dryer to work for D. P. Porter of Linn county, and Wednesday ordered one for J. L. Parrish of Salem. His sales the present year are so numerous that we may look for a greatly increased production of machine dried fruits the present fall.

Fruit Drying in Polk County

The following named persons have bought Fruit Dryers of W. S. Plummer, and are now operating same in Polk county: C. C. Walker, Major W. M. Walker, and Wm. Phillips, of Spring Valley. S. S. Whitman, of Monmouth. Gold Hubbard, C. D. Embrie, Mrs. Dr. Boyle, John Thomas 2 machines on Col. Nesmith's place, of Dixie. Wm. Ruble, Mr. Ruble, Mr. Harrison and E. F. Hosford of Eola. Polk county will be well represented in the Dried Fruit market with all these producers at work.

Valuable Sheep Killed.

The 11 o'clock freight train yesterday morning ran into a fine band of Merino sheep, belonging to Mr. T. L. Davidson, on his farm, one mile south of this city, killing eight and crippling four, some of which will be apt to die. One of those killed was imported from New York, and was a very valuable sheep. Several of the others were valued at one hundred dollars each by Mr. Davidson, while some of the band cost Mr. Davidson as high as \$300. The Centennial medal was awarded Mr. Davidson at the Centennial Exposition for wool from this band, as being the finest on exhibition. Money cannot make the loss good, as it cannot replace the quality of the sheep.

Beautiful Prospect.

Seeding is going on now with rapidity and on a large scale, in this county since the heavy rain of Monday last. The dust is laid, the air purified, the fires extinguished in the forests, the dense smoke cleared away, and everything has a bright and clear appearance. Never was a rain more welcome than the one on Monday.

Assessment Laws.

Some change in the laws for assessment of property and collection of taxes seems to be necessary, and we notice that numerous measures are pending with relation to this subject. A bill by Hon. A. S. Watt, senator from Washington county, proposes to revise the whole system of assessments, and another by Hon. M. C. George, senator from Multnomah, provides for equalization of taxes in the different counties. Those measures receive considerable attention, and we are inclined to think that this very important matter will be in much better shape if they pass and become law. The present system is bad, cannot be effectually enforced, and seems to offer a premium for perjury without obtaining a correct assessment of property, or insuring equal taxation. We need a law that can be enforced, and it is hardly possible that any law that can be framed will please all the tax payers.

Washington County Fair.

The Washington County Agricultural Society held its annual fair the present week with delightful weather in its favor. This fair is always well conducted in the interest of producers of that county. The rain of Monday was followed by glorious weather and proved an advantage. The exhibit seems to have been good, and so far as we can learn up to time of going to press the fair will prove a success. A good show of stock is on the ground and the trials of speed seemed to be chief items of interest. It is not easy to maintain county fairs because the greater attractions of the State Fair will always interfere, but Washington county shows enterprise in this direction and is the only county in the State that proves able to hold its own in this particular.

AWARD OF PRIZES.

The following letter will require no explanation:

PARIS, Aug. 30, 1878.

EDITOR OF THE OREGONIAN: I take pleasure in announcing unto you that the following prizes have been awarded so far: To the Oregon exhibit, gold medal for wheat. Medal of Honor, which is equal to gold medal, for wood. Two silver medals for salmon. Bronze medal for Oregon furniture manufacture. Bronze medal for Plummer dried fruit. Class 46 for wool and furs not known yet; neither class 49 for flour. Morning papers announce officially that the distribution of prizes will only take place on the 21st of October, instead of of 18th of September as first announced. This postponement causes much dissatisfaction among exhibitors. Truly yours, J. VAN BURDEN.

Death of Prominent Men.

Julius C. Moreland, a well known lawyer of Portland, died in that city, Wednesday, Sept. 25, of typhoid fever, complicated by a relapse, and inflammation of the lungs.

E. A. Cronin, of the same city, whose name is familiar with the electoral matter, also died the same day. He was a man of genial qualities and had many good traits and a host of friends.

Heavy Mail.

The Salem postoffice officials are sending off a large amount of mail from this place. Yesterday three sacks were sent, and to-day (Friday) the extraordinary number of twelve started on their journey. The members of the Legislature send off considerable mail matter, and the several newspapers make up the balance. Of the lot sent to-day, fully one-third was from the Willamette Farmer office.—[Record, Sept. 29.]

HELD FOR MURDER.—Judge Adams, of Portland, has committed J. K. Mercer to jail without bail, to await a trial for murder.

Governor W. W. Thayer, yesterday afternoon appointed T. C. Bell, of Bethel, Polk county, a Notary Public, to reside in Polk county.

Victoria, Sept. 23.—The Chinese tax case will come up on Monday before the supreme court on a writ of replevin. It is intimated that the Celestials are tired of the strike and will return to their situations on Monday.

The streets will be lighted with gas after October 1st. D. W. Higgins, editor of the Colonist, is bound over to appear at the assizes for an assault on Holloway, reporter of the Standard. A paragraph reflecting on Higgins' family appeared in the Standard on Friday, and Higgins called Holloway severely in front of the supreme court rooms the same day.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 23.—Gen. Todleben telegraphs the czar that he was received at Adrianople by Mussulman, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian and Jewish clergy, who requested him to express their gratitude for the protection which the Russian authorities had afforded them. They stated that such order and justice had never before prevailed, as during the occupation by Russian troops. Adrianople was illuminated on the arrival and departure of Gen. Todleben, and the gates of the mosque bore the czar's initials.