WILLAMETTE FARMER

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY, BY
CLARKE & CRAIG,
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.
S. A. CLARKE. D. W. CRAIG.

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SALEM, FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 1878.

A TALK WITH READERS.

Our farmers have had a most favorable time, for some weeks past, for plowing land for wheat and sowing fall grain. The old world looks to America for bread, and though the price may not always be advanced by war or famine, we can always depend on a fair payment for the labor involved in grain production. If we must consider wheat the great staple of production of our State, it is advisable to sow as much as possible of it before the first of December, for as a writer in this issue remarks wheat not sowed in November should be left until February. Fall-sowing on land well plowed, and not too wet to stand the winter, produces the best results, and we venture to say that the average of our wheat crop is very greatly reduced by reckless cultivation, the ground not being in the best order and the sowing continued too late.

What we need constant information upon, is, concerning the best varieties to sow at different seasons and upon different soils. We have different kinds of prairie, and the soil of the hills differs in different sections of this valley. Some land is too wet to sow in the fall, or winter, and some counties of the State produce stronger and better wheat than others, and some portions of some counties differ from other portions.

A man moving from one county to another, from hill to prairie land, or the contrary, finds it necessary to change his methods and adopt other varieties of grain for seed. All these things offer an interesting field for discussion, and the relation of personal experience will be very useful to all, for every farmer will read with interest whatever relates to practical farming through the entire region represented by the readers of our widely circulated paper.

The season of the year is upon us when we have rainy days and long winter evenings; when the family have time to read, and the elder one's have time to write out their experience. We suggest that our columns can be made very interesting, and mutual benefit result to thousands of readers, if a general interest can be taken in discussion of farm topics and the relation of personal experiences. The range is not a narrow one by any means, for the farmer's life includes the cultivation of all sorts of grain, grasses, vegetables, and fruits; and flowers ought to bloom around every homestead. Here are topics to enlist the sympathy and excite the interest of every member of the family, and we offer a hearing to all. We make a family newspaper and wish to have all the family interests represented and advocated in our columns, which can be done by communications, that can be brief and to the point, touching every matter of interest.

Stock is kept on every farm, and more or less butter and cheese made through the country, and this interest should not be neglected. We have very little from our correspondents about stock matters, and this department of itself offers an opportunity for very interesting discussion.

The horse is the noblest of animals and the most useful to man, and there are many men who breed fine horses, while our readers are the men who use horses in every way, from the heavy plow team to the swift footed roadster, so that they must have their own individual ideas about horses. The horse breeder can advocate the merits of particular families of horses, or the crossing of breeds, while the former can give his experience as to their hardiness and good working qualities.

Cattle are required for the beef market and for dairy purposes, and there are in Oregon pure Short Horns, Holsteins, and Devons for beef, and Alderneys and Jerseys for milk, and the grades from these and ordinary stock can be talked about to advantage. The various breeds of sheep, goats and swine offer subjects worth discussing; poultry figure largely in the economy of farm life. Thus we present to our readers a range of topics in which they have peculiar interest and can write about understandingly. It lies with them to make their own farmer's paper valuable and interesting.

Through the Home Circle all the social features of life can be talked along the domestic economy, and the wants of the household considered and compared, and much good accomplished. There should be representation from every family, and around the social circle at the Home Circle we can do up the long evenings and learn to be found of enjoyment in the world at large and of advantage to our family. The habit of learning to express our ideas, briefly and to the point, so that they can be read with interest, will be of value to all who acquire it, and any person who can talk good sense can write it.

GAMBLING AT THE STATE FAIR.

It is important that all Fairs, wherever held, should command the respect, as well as the patronage, of the best citizens. Constant complaint is made against gambling and pool selling at the State Fair, and it seems to us necessary that no pools should be sold on the grounds, and that gambling should be discouraged by every possible means. Wallace's Monthly—one of the best stock journals published in the world—takes strong grounds against such management, and argues that fair trials of speed for a sufficient purse, will call out good horses and give as much interest to spectators and as much profit to the Society. We are aware that managers of such Society often think it necessary to propitiate success at the expense of morality, or what they claim to be moral effects where they may be unmeasurable to look at, but we plead public morality first and prefer that no concession be made to vice, even to the extent of shutting the eyes when it comes uncomfortably near. The sight of a good race is pleasant to us and we need no pool selling to flavor it, nor do the masses who look on at State Fairs. No doubt if the gambling features could be abolished the trials would be more reliable, whereas, the popular idea is that some game is made between the jockeys and the race has no element of fairness in it.

The Board of Managers should recognize that every complaint that can be made is used as an argument against them, and injures their success. People do not realize, when they object to the thousands of dollars given away as premiums to fast horses, that the income from entries and from the stands at the course more than pay the bill, which is no doubt true; so that the objection, so often made, that the racing premiums are a needless expense, falls to the ground. No doubt the races, in pleasant weather, furnish a great attraction to the multitude, for the whole human family have a passion for this sort of amusement, and we see nothing wrong in it when properly conducted, but we should like to see stringent measures taken to prevent gambling and to stop pool selling, and so preserve the young men of our State from being demoralized by the example and influence of such a popular and representative institution as the State Fair.

A Proposed Railroad.

There is a good deal of talk in Salem about building a narrow guage railroad to Silverton, and the importance of such a road must be fully apparent to the people of this city, and if talk would build it no doubt Salem could do all the talking necessary. What is needed is a spirit of enterprise and the money to back it up. Salem people have not latterly shown much enterprise, though there was some here of old when the woolen mills were built, and when their great hotel came into existence. Since then we have seen no signs of it. The woolen factory burned down and never has been rebuilt. The ashes grew cold long ago, and even have lost the ability to act as a fertilizer, and the numerous families that lived upon the wages paid them have moved away to find some place where bread can be won. The loss of that factory was an irreparable injury to Salem.

The State Capital is located here and the moneyed men of Salem seem to think that should cause all earthly good to rain down upon them. The State Capital is worth lose to Salem than the woolen factory, for while it may give the place more tone, it doesn't feed as many people. If the people of Salem wait for the State Capital to build them they will wait long and in vain. It is a nice thing, of course, to be the seat of government, but what they need here is business enterprise to bring the trade of the surrounding country to Salem and create commerce, also to put machinery to work to utilize the water power that is now going to waste. Salem is now the slowest of Oregon towns, and if they don't bestir themselves here, and do it speedily, the grass will grow in the streets.

We are glad to see the men who have slumbered so long finally waking up to a sense of the situation. They need the road to Silverton, and another up the Santiam, with a branch to Scio, narrow track roads both; and they need to rebuild the woolen mills and to put a bridge across the Willamette to permit the trade of eastern Polk county to reach their streets. Some other manufacturing enterprises might be not amiss, perhaps, but at least these things would show signs of life and rebuke the cavilling spirit that prevails through the State at their expense.

Perhaps these remarks, or similar remarks, will fit other places that are becoming torpid. We apply them to Salem because the condition of things warrants it, and we realize that if enterprise really developes here, this city will grow to be very thriving as well as very beautiful.

Mechanics' Fair at Portland and Other State Fairs.

The people of Portland made a success of the Mechanics' Fair, lately held there, the first attempt in that direction, and they very justly feel proud over it. Portland is becoming a great city, with a greater destiny before it in the near future, and the more enterprise the people there show in encouraging exhibits of the industries and production of the State, the better. No doubt they hope to monopolize the exhibit business and make that place the headquarters for our State Fairs and all such popular demonstrations, but that can hardly result, simply because the spot is not central enough to the great producing portion of the Willamette valley. Some place up the valley will be more central to the farmers, who will drive there and back easily, while they cannot spare time and expense to visit the metropolis, and a contest to win the place for a great annual fund for

[illegible] will [illegible] something like this. The country east of the Cascades will have to [illegible] and will be able to hold a great annual exposition somewhere on the shores of the Upper Columbia. It is not possible for those who live there to carry their stock and products, or their manufactures, to Portland or Salem; they will need a yearly fair in some central location, and where more settled up, the area is so great that it may require several district fairs to afford them opportunity for convenient exhibit. Such exhibits are so important that they should be encouraged by all means. There will be a fair located to accommodate the producers of the Umpqua and Willamette valleys, and the whole region of the Lower Columbia and in the vicinity of Portland, will be represented at a fair to be held near that city.

Portland is the proper place for the holding of a mechanics' fair, and it is to be hoped that the effort will be repeated, as no doubt it will, and be more successful each year. These things will regulate themselves as matters of course. There is no need of rivalry, other than a just emulation to make their exhibits a success everywhere. If the people of the metropolis want to have a great annual exhibit of products, let them go to work and have it, it may be possible that it is too early yet, for the holding of two great agricultural exhibits so near each other, but at the rate the State is growing, and production increases, it will be but a few years before they can be held and both prove successful. In the meantime, the people at Portland can afford to possess their souls in patience, with no misgivings lest the future should fail them. The future is sure to bring them everything they need and perhaps more than they will deserve.

Wheat Growing Extraordinary.

Some specimens of wheat have been handed us by Mr. W. H. Foster, of Brookline, Mass., and they are of unusually fine growth. Mr. Foster planted the seed singly one foot apart each way, and, when the plants matured, as many as forty-eight well headed stalks five feet eight inches in height were found growing from a single seed. Mr. Foster estimates that if he had seeded an acre he would have required but 32 pounds of seed, while if the wheat had been sown broadcast, 120 pounds would have been needed. He used common manure, and the variety of the seed was the common Western wheat. This interesting experiment demonstrates in the opinion of Mr. Foster, that thin seeding of wheat is much preferable to the ordinary broadcast sowing. Certainly the experiment is worth trying on a large scale, and, if the result is satisfactory, it will be an important fact to wheat growers.—[Mass. Ploughman.

Judge A. E. Wait, who has a farm near Canby, sent last fall for a pound of a new kind of wheat, called Defiance, a cross of white and club, at a cost of a dollar. He planted it in drills and without any extraordinary care he cleaned up five bushels of very extra fine grain, and calculates that at least one bushel besides was lost as gathered in the head, so that six bushels may be considered as the product of that pound of seed. Many of the heads were seven inches in length. He also sent for the seed and planted ten varieties of fine potatoes, one of which varieties, the most prolific, is the Burbank's Seedling, of which mention has been made in the FARMER. Having retired from the busy wrangling life of law practice, he is devoting his well-earned leisure to testing the capabilities of seed, soil, and fruits, with best results. He promises to give an article occasionally to the FARMER, and to make a showing at the next State Fair.

The John Dere Moline plows, of various makes, are becoming very popular in this region, as we judge from the fact that Hawley, Dodd & Co., the general agents for the Pacific northwest, sell thousands of them every year. We published an extract, lately, from an English scientific paper, giving an account of the great trial near Paris, for the exposition award for the best plow, showing that the John Dere plow was the most successful competitor and received the award. The particulars of the trial show how thorough the trial was and the success of an American plow was no slight triumph to our nation.

SIDE HILL PLOWS.—Messrs. Newbury Chapman & Co., inform us that they will soon receive an invoice of side hill plows of the latest improved make. We have noticed, for years that no such plows have been brought to to Oregon, and as the culture of hill lands is found very profitable, and many persons are settling in the foot hills of the mountains all around the valley, and elsewhere, there should be an active demand for good plows of this make. In the upper Columbia region, many persons could plow hill land to advantage, if they had suitable plows, and no doubt a good market will open for them.

The State Fair Criticized.

ED. FARMER: In your issue of Nov. 2, 1878, I see an article entitled "What I saw at the late fair." I would ask that correspondent did he see an Oregon made 2-horse wagon which the Board that got up the premium list for 1878 has virtually starved out of our State Fair by offering a worthless sheet called a diploma, which cost the Society about 40 or 50 cents apiece, instead of giving the ten dollars or five dollars as it should be. Also, did that correspondent see an Oregon made walking plow which was sent away to starve in order to make room and money for horse-racing and pool selling and gambling, and give the thieves and pickpockets a chance to do their dirty work.

Mr. Editor, I hope you will find room for this as you invite all to write, and as I wish to hear from others. AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

THE FRUIT TREE SWINDLE.

Those who have ordered fruit trees of a peripatetic agent of an Ohio nursery, may read the communication from L. F. Mascher, Silverton, with interest. Mr. Mascher is a reliable man, and his opinion should be heeded to expose the humbug.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Thousands of dollars are due us on back subscriptions and we must insist on payment of these delinquent accounts by the first of January. We wish to establish a system of advance payment, so that we can carry out our intention to constantly improve the FARMER and make it more acceptable to its patrons. All those who desire to second our efforts at improvement can do so by furnishing us their subscriptions in advance, which will insure our success.

Our terms are $2.50 in advance and $3 after three months; and we prefer the $2.50 in advance, for "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

APPOINTMENTS.

Wm. Lee, Veterinary Surgeon, having made a successful trip through the valley as announced in his communication published elsewhere, has concluded to make another tour, and sends the following list of appointments:

Junction, Nov. 16.
Eugene, Nov. 18.
Roseburg, Nov. 28 to 30.
Oakland, Dec. 1.
Harrisburg, Dec. 3.
Sheilds, Dec. 4.
Albany, Dec. 9.
Corvallis, Dec. 10.
Salem, Dec. 12, at Gaines' Fisher's stable.
Dallas, Dec. 13.
McMinnville, Dec. 16.
Portland, Dec. 18, at National Hotel stable.
Oregon City, Dec. 19.
St. Helens, Dec. 20.
Lancaster, W. T., Dec. 21.

W. R. Newell, editor of the Walla Walla Statesman, died on Wednesday afternoon last. His age was 60 years.

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Administratrix's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that Sarah Smith has this day filed her final account as administratrix of the estate of Absalem Smith, deceased, in the County Court of Marion county, Oregon, and Saturday, the 7th day of December, 1878, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, has been set for hearing the same. All persons interested in said estate are therefore required to appear in said court at the day and hour aforesaid, and show cause, if any exists, why said account should not be allowed and said administratrix discharged. SARAH SMITH, Adm'x of Estate of Absalem Smith, dec'd.
Nov. 1, 1878. 2w4pd

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nov8w3

DO NOT FAIL to send for our Catalogue. It contains prices and descriptions of most every article in general use, and is valuable to ANY PERSON contemplating the purchase of any article for Personal, Family or Agricultural use. We have done a large trade the past season in the remote parts of the Territories, and have, with few exceptions, exceeded the expectations of the purchaser, many claiming to have made a saving of 40 to 60 per cent. We mail CATALOGUES TO ANY ADDRESS, FREE, UPON APPLICATION. We sell our goods to all manking at wholesale prices in quantities to suit. References, First National Bank, Chicago.
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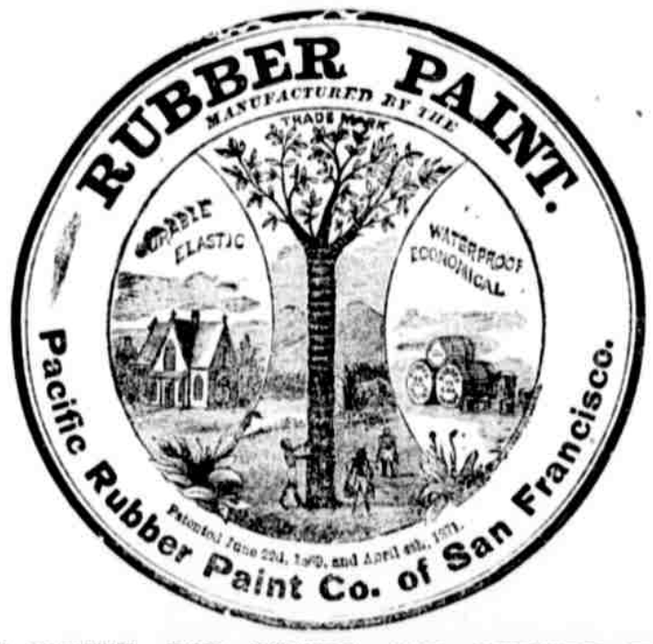

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March 15, 1878tf

Notice.

ON the 17th day of July last, T. Cunningham made an assignment to us for the benefit of his creditors, having in our possession, at various places in this valley, a quantity of HEADERS, DRILLS, SEEDERS, CULTIVATORS, PLOWS, and other agricultural implements, which must be sold, and are offered at very low prices.

All persons having claims against the said Assignor will please present the same, duly certified, at the office, and all persons indebted to him, whether by note or account, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and save the cost of collection.

JACOB COLE,
ABSL. TEST,
WM. CUNNINGHAM,
Assignees of T. Cunningham & Co.
Salem, Sept. 6, 1878. w36t