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SALEM, FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1878. Wheat at Astoria.

By way of introducing the following, from the Salem Statesman of the 20th, it may be proper and right to call the attention of readers to the fact that the San Francisco wheat market on that very same day was stronger and higher.

"Choice lots sold for \$1 76(1/4) 77(1/2) with but few sellers. Prices in New York advanced to \$1 06(1/4) 12(1/2) per bushel. In London on the same day prices took a turn dearest. In Portland, Oregon, buyers were offering \$1 62(1/4) 64(1/2) per cental being 12(1/2) cents a cental less than were offered at Astoria the same day.

The Statesman says: We have repeatedly called attention to the great, but unreasonable difference between the market price of wheat in San Francisco and Astoria, Oregon, and asked why this should be. For a considerable length of time the Astorian kept standing in its market report that "wheat in store or what is to be sold" was worth as much as wheat in store or what is to be sold in San Francisco. Still, however, the market price in Astoria is that "wheat in store or what is to be sold" is worth as much as wheat in store or what is to be sold in San Francisco.

All or most of you read, and very many of you have read, that in ancient times men held, to us, very absurd views upon religious subjects; that the popular mind in the most civilized countries believed in and worshipped a multiplicity of Gods, amongst whom was Bacchus, the God of Drunkards. We would be apt to think with pity and contempt upon the matters of faith of these simple-minded ancients, did we not know that they sometimes fed wild beasts with the bodies of the early believers in Christ as a teacher of peace, purity and temperance.

We rise from the contemplation of the history of the past, feeling thankful we live in a more enlightened age, and under a form of government (that government being in part ourselves) that will not permit human life to be taken in that way. It is a reason for thankfulness. But what think you, gentlemen and ladies, will be the reflections of the student of our history one hundred years hence, when he reads that one hundred years after the brave and true founders of our nationality had laid its foundation for the purpose of securing to us the blessings of self-government, we were a people making lawful the annual distribution of \$800,000,000 worth of strong drink; that we made amongst ourselves 60,000,000 gallons of whisky and 315,000 gallons of brandy; that we imported 2,500,000 gallons of spirits, and 10,500,000 gallons of wine, and made and imported for consumption 6,200,000 barrels of ale, beer and porter, making a total of 73,315,000 gallons, and 6,500,000 barrels of strong drink, sold at retail rates for \$600,000,000 during the year ending the 30th of June, 1871.

These are the only statistics that I shall offer you tonight. Those were furnished by Dr. B. Gratz Brown, of Missouri by Dr. Edward Young, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department of the United States. I take the figures from a published speech of Gov. Brown upon this subject, and believe as Dr. Young says in his letter to him, that the figures are below the actual truth by the whole amount that is kept from the knowledge of the government by fraudulent returns of manufacturers and importers.

In subsequent letters Mr. Froelander advocated Astoria as the proper place for this business; the Oregonian, under the editorial management of Mr. Hill, advised the same course; either candid people recommended it as the true policy. The facts to-day prove the correctness of the plan, and if the farmers of the Willamette valley had adopted this course five years ago they could to-day be the owners of a complete line of railway from Salem to Astoria, built and operated from the savings of that system over the present unworkable method of transporting this business.

What I again ask, is likely to be the opinion of our conduct, formed by the philosophical student one hundred years hence? We pray to God let at least the best of us die to deliver us from temptation, and by our intense law play temptation in the way of the most reckless, most thoughtless and most easily tempted members of society, the results of which can be traced from the president's house to the poorest poorhouse in the land, and we all know the results are bad and bad only.

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A farmer is remarked on his bearing lately that when he was a school-teacher, and unable to sleep in his study, struck light, taken the window out, and the morning sun shined in on him. He expected this afternoon or to-morrow.

STRONG DRINK AND HIGH TAXES.

An Address to the Temperance Union of Salem.

BY HON. JOHN MINTO.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I shall not strive to entertain you with a formidable array of statistics to show you the magnitude of the evils arising from the use and abuse of strong drink. Nor shall I attempt to enlist your sympathies for particular victims, or seek to awaken your horror or disgust by calling to your attention particular crimes or cases of deep degradation as the result of its use.

The twenty minutes that I ask your attention, I will endeavor to use mostly in such a manner as may suggest such additional elements of strength to your Union, or, if once affiliated with it, would add to its power for good. I say additional elements, because I have mostly heard temperance advocated for its moral and social influences, leaving out of sight generally, or rather, not taking in, the fact that the waste of the raw material from which strong drink is made, the money paid for it, the time spent in drinking it, the cost to society of the crimes, the diseases and the poverty resulting from drinking it, makes the question of its use or abandonment the most important question of political economy of our day.

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Our laws on this subject are monuments of folly. Through them we make drunkards, and touch the drunkard with less of pity and loss of family, remaining him to put it in his power to pay a fine, and thereby, live with the right of citizenship in the same.

Agricultural laborers are paid in Ireland from 1s 2d to 2s 6d per day permanently, and from 2s 6d to 3s 6d in the busy season.

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."

PROOF OF THE Superiority OF THE PACIFIC RUBBER PAINT.

Report of the committee appointed by the California State Agricultural Society, Sept. 1878, to examine and report upon the merits of mixed paints exhibited.

We selected from each of the exhibits viz., "The Averill Chemical Paint," "Imperishable Paint," and "Pacific Rubber Paint," a can of their paints, and had same applied by a painter under our personal supervision. Upon measuring the surface covered, we find that the "Pacific Rubber Paint covered 21,276 sq. in. "Averill Chemical" " " 17,834 " " " " " 14,445 " " "

An equal quantity of each paint having been used, the above result shows that the Pacific Rubber Paint covered nearly TWENTY PER CENT MORE SURFACE than the "Averill Chemical Paint," and nearly FIFTY PER CENT MORE SURFACE than the "Imperishable Paint."

In view of the foregoing facts, and considering the ease of application of the Pacific Rubber Paint, and its superior covering qualities, we find it justly entitled to the award of the First Premium.

A. C. CHISMAN, W. C. FITCH, R. S. JONES, Committee.

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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: Albany, Dec. 9. Corvallis, Dec. 10. Salem, Dec. 12, at Games Foster'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.

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PIANO Beautiful Concert Grand Piano, cost \$1,400 only ORGAN \$425 Superb Grand Square Piano, cost \$1,100 only \$255. Elegant Upright Piano cost \$800, only \$155. New style Upright Piano, \$115.00. Organ \$25. 19 guns, 12 stops, \$75.00. Church Organs, 16 stops, cost \$90, only \$115. Elegant \$75 Mirror top Organs, only \$100. Tremendous sacrifice to close our present stock.

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J. W. GILBERT Pays Cash for Hides, Furs, & Pelts,

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PEACH PLUM. The Italian Prune. And the best varieties of Plum, Prune, Peach, Apple, Pear, Cherry, Nut and Shade Trees, IN FULL ASSORTMENT.

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TAKES pleasure in offering to the Wool-growers of Oregon and the adjoining Territories the chance to purchase THOROUGHBRED MERINOS, and assuring parties interested that they can, and will endeavor to sell Sheep of the same quality and value at MUCH CHEAPER RATES than such can possibly be imported. Examination and comparison with other Sheep offered in the market are cordially invited.

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State of Oregon, George W. Elder, City of Chester,

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