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NO. 4.

VOL. XI.

Is Agriculture Overdone?

The Chicago Inter-Ocean answers the ques-

low prices. These low prices affect all fibers, as cotton and wool, as well as breadstuffs. A table of comparative prices for fifty years they averaged from 1821 to 1872. It is not imtheory, but we take issue with it on sevworld, and especially the labor troubles in England, are caused by over production, not three years. of breadstuffs and agricultural products, but

f manufactured goods. When breadstuffs demand for. Over production of goods will of farmer would average \$1.62 per annum for hourse cause trouble for the manufacturers insurance on \$2,000. The regular rates here and when they attempt to reduce wages or would require \$25 for a yearly policy, and have to stop work, as a matter of course the \$50 for a three years, policy on \$2,000, half operatives are thrown out of work and the on dwelling and half on barn. The cost of demand for bread is curtailed. The condition of manufacturing in England has much to do ith the value of breadstuffs, as England the world's great customer. The condition

with the condition of the grain market. Amount of acres cultivated and labor employed is not the criterion for production alvays, for some years the world's harvests are n excess of others, and the last harvest was, as s well known, in excess of those for several years preceding, and the present year's supply of breadstuffs is so abundant that prices have

We hold that there is no indication of too much development of agriculture, but that most assured prosperity must result from dividing the agricultural area of every nation nto small farms and cultivating them so well that agriculture shall be a science. If we have multitude of small farms, tilled as in rance, by independent families, each one will employ laborers, and assist to build up towns ties and villages and support manufactories. we have an industrious and prosperous ming community, that will be the founda-I for general prosperity, and there is no agricultural community is the surest foundaion on which to build political honesty and saitonal prosperity. Agriculture should be

diversified, and the same enterprise that

makes the manufacturer compete for excel-

ence should be exercised, and is needed to note farming a success. The best methods of as necessary with one as with the ther. Those who agree that agriculture may be verdone forget that it is the only labor that amout be overdone, for as it is the only compation that furnishes the material for sod and clothing, all other occupations are condary to it and dependent upon it. losely is a fiction; precious things have only a art value, and luxuries are means for ittering away the accumulations of the rich.

a the world is constituted, the extravagance the rich puts bread into the mouths of the y. Come down to the actual facts and the nor is the only independent man; the ily producer of necessaries; the only man self-sustained. Let him be out of debt ssessed of good health and he can live thrive, and we insist that there cannot too many of him. It is his own fault if he see not govern the community that he un-

Rain in California.

uble that the harvests of that State can alize as much as if rains had come earlier, d are working with all the energy and they have to make the most of them.

W. O. Gissos, of Hillsboro, informs at the late storm was very severe, as was n by the number of trees blown down the that exceeded the remembrance of the lest inhabitant. prayer books.

Insurance For Farmers

We take pleasure in endorsing the matter on as to what causes the low price of all presented to the attention of farmers this sicultural products, with the assertion that week by A. R. Shipley, Master of the State ere has been too much agricultural develop- Grange, who furnishes a communication with nent; many have emigrated from the East to statement of facts relating to co-operative inthe West, and have of late years engaged in surance in New York State. We have refarming, and the result is over-production and peatedly called attention to insurance as a field where farmers can co-operate to mutual advantage, both with respect to fire and life insurance policies. When we study the shows that breadstuffs are lower now than subject from the Oregon standpoint we see that the best companies that do business possible that some truth attaches to this in this State charge for farmhouses 75 cents per \$100 per annum, or \$1.50 per \$100 for ground. The stagnation in trade all over the three years. The rates for insuring barns and stables are \$1.75 per \$100 or \$3.50 per \$100 for

We take it that the average cost of the co-operative insurance in New York State is and cotton and wool are low priced, manu- 81-100 of a mill for all farm property. Supfacturers should thrive, if there is a healthy posing that a man had \$2,000 insurance, half demand for goods, but the difficulty is that on the dwelling house and half on the barn more goods are manufactured than there is and contents, the cost to the New York insurance by the co-operative plan in New York is greatly in favor of the farmer. Perhaps we might not carry it on as cheaply as there where property is perhaps more valuable of the British labor market has much to do and farms mere closely located. But we have a great diference in our favor. The cost of fire insurance in Oregon, through incorporated companies, are ten to fifteen times what co operative insurance costs in New York, and that leaves the farmer a very wide and safe margin to go upon.

What is true of fire insurance is not less true of life insurance. We have for a long time held up to the farmers of Oregon the advisability of organizing a co-operative system of life insurance. We have a policy of insurance on the mutual principle, in the North Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Association of Portland, which is, they assure us, good for \$600 or more, in case of the decease of the policy holder. The annual payments average about \$6, and some years \$8. The associa tion is on the joint stock plan as well as the mutual, and the stockholders must have their profits. In 1869 we were insured in the New England Mutual, and on a \$2,500 policy the annual payments for ten years averaged anger but that all other interests will adjust full \$72, per annum, or nearly \$30 on the masslves to that. The most reliable thousand of the amount of policy. The ment of national prosperity is agriculture. mutual insurance plan, even in the joint Improve it by thorough and intelligent work: stock company in which we have the other develope all its social and intellectual sur- policy, costs us less than half what has been roundings; let it be financially independent the cost in the New England Life, and we and it will insure us all that is necessary to perience in the cost of life insurance, that if a social progress and good government. An mutual or co-operative system was called into intelligent, cultivated, and well principled existence by the Grange, that it could be conducted at a cost of not to exceed one-half the regular charges of insurance corporations, a great part of whose incomes are wasted in high salaries and rents, and extraordinary commissions, while their assets are subject to reduction by the decline of stocks and real estate they own. The Grange offers a medium for easy organization and co-operation to good advantage, but we should hope to see any plan

first opportunity when the ground shall be in order after the heavy rains, to get them into position. They should have the advantage of the first warm weather to make growth and have the root fibers put forth. This will give them power to withstand dry weather, and is especially necessary if we are to have a dry spring, as was the case last year.

We have excellent nurserymen in Oregon. and their advertisements will be found in our columns. S. Luelling & Son, of Milwaukie, and G. W. Walling & Son, of Oswego, are among the very oldest. H. Hanson and H. W. Prettyman, of East Portland, and J. H. Settlemier, of Woodburn, also do a large bus-California is rejoicing in plentiful rains and respects of at least a fair crop. It is hardly worthy of patronage.

A Good Ointment.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

or and put in cultivation as if early rains had a notice in the FARMER of Feb. 21st. a bealing ointment recipe. That recipe was a shether the spring rains will suffice to handed to me in a little different shape a I notice in the FARMER of Feb. 21st. 'a the proper the grain that is brought forward by great many years since in Missouri. Take fresh unsalted butter two parts, to one part beeswax. In the absence of butter I used mutton tallow. My hands were chapped so from gathering corn that they from bled morning till night and burned from night till morning, and it healed them and made them soft and smooth in a short time. A. E. W.

A hint to young ladies who wear outside pockets: Have your purses made to look like

Co-operative Insurance

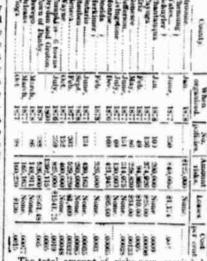
UREGON STATE GRANGE, MASTER'S OFFICE, OSWEGO, March 3d, 1879. Editor Willamette Farmer:

As a matter of great interest and importance to the Patrens of Oregon, please publish the following in relation to co-operathe dollar to insure their property against loss tically, egg is animal food, and yet there is costs us ten mills on the dollar, more than necessary to obtain it. ten times as much. The organization and machinery of these associations are simple, me that this is a matter in which the Patrons vantage. The article below is taken from "The Husbandman" published at Elmira, N. Y., by W. A. Armstrong, Secretary of the New York State Grange.

At the late meeting of the New York State irange the committee on insuance submitted very interesting figures gathered from the very interesting figures gathered from the various associations organized and sustained by farmers with the object of providing for themselves indemnity at actual cost against loss of farm buildings and property by fire. The table presented below shows how cheap work is done and the surprising results attained. Farmers everywhere will do well to give the figures something like careful study, with a view to reaching better understanding of the actual cost of a service which they have been accustomed to regard as mysterious and difficult of comprehension. They will see that good farm risks average in losses by fire less than one-tenth of one per cent. per annum, while the usual rate collected by stock companies for such property is three times as great. To be precise, an illustration will great. To be precise, an illustration will serve to show the relative cost. By co-operative insurance the farmer pays on \$10,000 an annual tax of eight dollars—on the same sum by the usual premium charged on farm buildings, twenty-five dollars. If this argument will not convince farme s that they can make

will not convince farme s that they can make fine savings in their own insurance their is little need of pressing the question.

For the table presented the public is indebted to Mr. J. H. Theall, of Tompkins county, whose indefatigable labors have resulted in saving enormous sums to the farmers of that county. By way of explanation it should be stated that the fifteen associations embraced in the average are the first in the order of the table.



of eighty-one numereums of a mill, which is hardly one-fith as much as now charged by stock companies. The table shows that the previous caculations made from the towns enumerated and actual rates in the later companies nearly correspond. However, this sum, with the same proportion of losses, will be shown to be below this calculation in the next year and a half, as the expenses for organizing, printing, etc., are mostly paid for that

Kow the Germans Plant Onions.

HARRISETES, Or., March 5ti., 1879. Editor Willamette Farmer:

As it is about the time of year for planting nion seed, I will give you the German method of planting. Prepare the beds the same as for ordinary planting; make shallow drills; drill the seed in them; then cover the drills with good enough for him." boards, not putting any earth on the seed. They will germinate quicker by this method than they would by covering them with earth, and you can watch the process of germination.
When the seed is well sprouted remove the
boards of an evening or in cloudy weather, so
the sun will not scorch them.

To Marion County Grangers.

The Marion County Grange Convention, composed of three delegates from each Sub-10 o'clock s. M., for the purpose of electing representatives to the State Grange.

W. M. HILLEARY. Teasur, Peb. 26, 1879. Deputy S. M.

Editor Willamette Farmer: Would it not be wise to substitute more oggs for meat in our diet? About one-third the weight of an egg is solid nutriment. This is more than can be said of meat. There are no bones and tough pieces that have to be laul aside. An egg is made up of ten parts tive insurance as carried on successfully by shell, sixty parts white, and thirty parts yelk.

the Patrons of New York and other Eastern The white of an egg centains S6 per cent. States. It will be seen that it costs the water, the yelk 52 per cent. The average Patrons of New York less than one mill on weight of an egg is about two cances. Fraor damage by fire, while here in Oregon it none of the disagreeable werk of the butcher The vegetarians of England use eggs freely,

and many of these men are eighty and ninety inexpensive and perfectly safe. It seems to years old, and have been remarkably fre from illness. A good egg is alive. The shell of Oregon might co-operate much to their ad- is porous; the oxygen of the air goes through the shell and keeps up a sert of respiration. An egg soon becomes stale in bast air, or in dry air charges with carbelle acid. Eggs may be dried and made to retain their goodness for a long time, or the shell may be varnished, which will exclude the air, when, if kept at a proper temperature, they may be

kept for years. The French people produce more eggs than my other, and ship millions of them to England annually.

Fresh eggs are more transparent at the entre-old ones at the top. Very old ones are not transparent at either place. In water n which one-tenth salt has been dissolved, good eggs sink and indifferent ones swim. Bad oggs float in pure water. The best eggs are laid by young, healthy hens. If they are properly fed, the eggs are better than if they are allowed to eat all sorts of food, especially decayed matter or refuse. Eggs are best water, by pouring boiling water upon them. Then let them stand where they will not gain any more heat. This takes away the animal taste that is so offensive to some, but does not so harden the white or yolk as to make them hard to digest. An egg, if cooked very hard, is difficult of dissection except by those with stout stomachs. Such eggs should be eaten with bread, and masticated very finely. An excellent sandwich can be made with eggs and brown bread. An egg spread on toast is fit for a King-if Kings deserve any better food than anybody else, which is doubtful. Fried eggs are less wholesome than boiled ones. An egg dropped into hot water is not only a clean and handsome, but a delicious morsel. Most people spoil the taste of their eggs by adding salt and pepper. A little butter is the best dressing. Eggs contain much phosphorous, which is supposed to be useful boiled eggs shelled, then mixed with beet pickles are delicious. To try eggs, have small plates, large enough for two or three eggs; set them on the stove and get them hot; put in a small piece of butter; when melted, drop bread and drop in the egg or

Affairs at West Union.

eggs, and you have a dish that is palatable.

West Usios, March 11, 1829. Editor Willamette Farmer:

The total amount of risks now carried by these fifteen companies as enumerated, is week, and the bad news from Washington, 55,171,650, and the total amount of expenses to-wit, the President's veto of the Chinese week, and the bad news from Washington, and losses is \$4,418.75. An average of one Bill has spread gloom and disgust over all cover the time insured, and the expenses of alike. On Sunday, the 9th, while the people organizing and losses thus far show a premium were enjoying their usual quietness, not so of eighty-one hundredths of a mill, which is discusted at the bad weather as at the lost. which is disgusted at the bad weather as at the loats some bordes of heathers being crowded upon us without our consent and against our will, all at once a cry of distress was heard at the cross-roads where the Hillsboro and Sauvie's Island road crosses the Glencoe road. The people flocked to the spot as fast as possible. When nearing the place one was heard to say,

"What a desperate struggle their has been No doubt he has fought hard ere they over came him and get the rope around his neck and over the limb." 'Yes, said another, "see how they have dragged him through the mud until they have worn his cont-sleeves of

at the closes."
"Cut him down," said one that had not get near enough to smell the rat.
"No," said the other, let him hang: it is

Then the boys began to whoop and laugh.

Then the boys began to whoop and laugh.

Sold: Sold: What: Why, it is President
Hayes hanging in his boots! So our curroutly
was brought to a close. It was President
Hayes hanged in effigy. All said good
enough! Let him hang! S. A. Houwell.

Lane County Grange Delegates

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the delegates of the Subordinate Granges of Lane County, held in Engene City. on the second Saturday in April, at 10 o local ordinate Grange in the county will be held in a. x., for the purpose of electing representa-Salem on Saturday, the 5th day of April, at tives to the State Grange, in accordance with the provisions of article second, sections let and 2d of the hy-laws of the Oregon State Grange. tate Grange. Rosco K sox.
Deputy Master
CRESSWELL, Gr., Feb. 24, 1879.

Hamburg Fowls.

[CONTINUED.] Editor Willamette Farmer:

They are fine specimens of the fowl family. Of the Hamburg family we have a very high opinion, all of the varieties being very handsome, and where suitable care and accommo dations are given them, they are one of the test pure-bred varieties of fowls, as they are prolific producers of nice white, delicatelyflavored eggs, and though small, are among the nicest and finest-flavored of table-fowls. In regard to hardihood, those who are breeding them in the north say that they stand the endden climatic changes far better than the Legborns, as owing to their combs being maller and closer to their heads, they very elden freeze. Cold, damp weather affects them. They are better adapted to our Southern States, although those breeding them in bregon, being a temperate climate, say they io remarkably well here. In California they oneider them too tender to raise for profit. he young chicks, however, are quite delicate until they get fully fledged, and need extra care up to that time, but after that they can 'rough it" with the best of them. I would advise those raising young chicks of this variety to feed them on hard-boiled eggs hashed op fine, sprinkled over with red pepper, corn meal, cheese-curd, etc. They require care, and a warm place to nextle.

We would be glad to see more interest being taken in this valuable breed of fowls in our State. Much depends on the rapid growth of these fowls while young; also on the feeding. But most commonly when the chickens are about three months old the spangles may be looked for on the top of the shoulders and sides of the breast. Two or three weeks after this the breast should be distinctly spangled. The spangles should be little larger on the breasts of the cockerels than the pullets. The cockerels also differ at this time from the pullets in combs and carlobes, which are larger. The comb of the cockerel will be found to have much increases from the time the bird is from six to eight months old. It should be firmly and evenly placed on the head, square in front, narrowing towards the back of the head, and ending in a thin peak pointing slightly upwards, the whole top to be covered closely over with small points. The size of the comb should be in proportion to the size of the head. I hate a large, coarse head and heavy comb. The ear-lobes should be white, round and smooth, and of the size of a sixpence. The legs or shanks should be blue or slate-blue Carriage upright, graceful and active.

SALES, Or. LUTHER MYERS.

SMITHFRED, March 3d, 1879.

Editor Williamette Farmer: Lane County hotes seem to be scarce in the

FARMER since its removal to Portland, but I for one like it better than before.

In the fall our prospects for early crops were good, but now it looks like the farmers are all idle on account of the wet weather, and will be as late as usual getting through seed-

To-day, according to the new law, is our annual school meeting. We have about 32 voters, and about as many candidates. I think we will have to have a Congressional Committee decide affairs, or probably a Peace Commission would answer best just now, as there are some who have rebelled against the tax levied last fall to purchase a schoolhouse. All is excitement here about the Siuslaw

country. That river is the boundry line between Lane and Douglay Counties, and is said to be the best entrance for all kinds of vessels north of San Francisco. I hear that the steamship Ancon has made a trip up Siuslaw River twenty-four miles from the entrance, and reports that there is water enough to float the Great Eastern. There is enough land along the course of that river to support 2,000 settlers, when cleared up, mostly covered with vine maple, such as is on the action River. Lane County is going to order a road viewed down Siuslaw this spring, as there can be a much better road got than the present road to Yaquina Bay, and it is said that the citizens of Lane County are going to make up money by subscription and hire a competent and responsible surveyor to survey the entrance, as all heretofore have been thred of, or rather that is the opinion of the

We have received Litolf's Musical World, monthly Magazine containing some very choice music for the piano. It can be had of the agent, Arthur P. Schmidt, No. 40 Winter Street, Boston, at twenty-five cents a number. We can recommend it for classic selections, the newest styles. Choice sheet makes can be had from the same house for many organ and violin, songs, solos and concert music. Send for a cutalogue of tone on her gown, the girl of the period is a thielffe Edition.

Letter From Linn County.

Editor Willamettee Farmer:

As I have not seen anything in the FARMER rom Linn County for some time, I thought I would drop you a few lines to-day. I commend you very highly for your ambition, and for the enterprising manner in which you have raised the standard of the PARMER. It s now a first-class agricultural paper. Go co and prosper. I hope in another year, when we get a good crop, that your subscription list will be doubled, and prosperity attend you and the FARMER.

The prospects of the coming spring are at present good. This is the third of March, and a very stormy night. If it should contime stormy now for a week or two we might expect the latter part of March to be good weather and look for an early spring. This would insure us a good crop. The last season our crops were very slim. The farmers of Linn County last season made nothing. The winter wheat at present looks very well, although we once thought it was badly injured by the freeze, but it is all right now, and growing finely.

"More Grasses and Less Grain," an essay read by C. F. Clarkson before the Pine Stock Association of Iowa. If you would be so good as to publish that article on grasses once a month, for the next twelve months, for the benefit of the farmers of Oregon, in case we should forget it. It is the very thing we need in Oregon; lands are wearing out very fast, and unless there is a remedy provided to enrich the soil, it must wear coul and become worthless. In Great Britain, after draining, and manuring heavily, they are compelled to lay it down in grass and pasture fit for years to enrich the soil, or it would become utterly worthless. It is no here with us; our crops are depreciating every year, and this is our only remedy, to now it down in grass and pasture it well. I will be glad to hear from others experienced on this subject, through the FARMER.

J. J. FINLAYSON.

ALBANY, Oregon. A Woman's Work.

David Newsome writing to the Albany Register says: "In traveling over time County this winter, I observed many things worthy of high commendation. One of these is that of Mrs. Rachel Boggs, of Tangent. Her husband, Thomas Boggs, died in the year 1865, leaving her with eight children at home -all girls, except one, who was only seven years old at the time of his father's death. Mrs. Boggs has remained on their old farms ever since, raising and educating her childdren, and carrying on farming and stock raising quite extensively. In the year 1871, her large, well furnished dwelling-house, with nearly all its contents, was consumed by fire. She at once erected a nice, commodious dwelling-house on the same spot upon the farm, and furnished it with all necessary funiture. But again the fire-fiend consumed her new dwelling and nearly all its contents, in the year 1878. Again she erected a small dwelling upon the same spot, and again furnished it. She has hired the grubbing out of 40 acres of rich, good land, on the farm and thereby extended the area of tillable land on the farm. Her children are now grown and married, except two of them, who are at home with her. She has about four hundred head of sheep, hogs, cattle and horses, and can now live in comfort. Perhaps not one man in a hundred, having Mrs. Boggs' losses and sore trials, would have borne up ander them and came out victorious as she has. This proves that women are fully capable ut achieving great things. And yet it is comsidered and ordered that they have guardians over them to protect them and manage their

J. J. H. Gregory's Seed Catalogue.

Mr. Gregory is one of the very few seedmen who combines the business of seed raiser and seed dealer. We presume this fact has a good leal to do with his seed wagrants; for unless a nan grew largely of the seed he sells and hence knows all about them, he will hardly venture to warrant their freshness and purity; and what is of more importance to the purchaser, stand by it in every case, as Mr. Gregory has the reputation of doing.

THE prettiest new Song and Chorus published for some time is "Sombody's Coming When the Dew-drops Fall," by Jas. C. Macy. It is a perfect gem of melody and the chorns is simply immense. It is already the rage in the East, and is fast becoming popular on the Pacific Coast. The title page is elegantly illustrated. By all means send for "Some body's Coming When the Dew-drops Fall. It is published by S. Brainard's Sons, the reland. O., who will mail it to any address of receipt of price forty cents.

With powder on her face and bullet-but-