

Willamette Farmer.

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The Season.
We are drawing to the close of April, and farmers are yet busy on lowlands plowing and sowing grain. February, March and April were not favorable to working wet ground, and the fact is becoming apparent that thorough ditching is necessary to successful farming on such lands. This matter has been urged upon our attention of late, and we doubt if there is a more important matter connected with Oregon agriculture. Lands well drained are permanently improved, and the benefits received will be constant. No one doubts this, but ditching and draining costs money, and too many put off the work until they are able. It is very probable that it would be more profitable in many instances to put one-fourth of the land in good cultivation, but men dislike to part with their acres, and will not believe that drainage is riches. Such is the case, however, and the farmer will be richer when he finds it out and puts it in practice.

The fall grain looks well, and the general understanding is that the promise for next harvest is all that can be desired, except in a few localities where winter wheat received injury from frost. Should the month of May furnish the needed showers, and June not be too dry, we may calculate on a splendid yield of spring grain. If the promise of a demand shall equal what we may expect to realize in the way of yield, the coming harvest year will be very prosperous.

Spring is a trifle late, and the orchards were spared from the effects of frost until last week. There were several frosty mornings then, and there is considerable anxiety to discover if the fruit crop was seriously damaged. We have fears that harm must have resulted. The interest in fruit culture has increased so much that an untimely frost will be a public calamity.

The pastures have revived so well that stock must be in good growing condition, and that reminds us that we are dependent on pastures for a great deal of expected profit. The important question is, How can we revive our pastures to make them realize what they should in our favor? That is a question we have raised before, but it has hardly been satisfactorily answered.

The Grange in Linn County.

Editor Willamette Farmer:
A visit to Linn County Council, P. of H., on last Monday, 14th inst., was indeed pleasant. I found by attending that meeting that the Grange is not dead in Linn County, and at least some of the business men of Linn understand this to be true. At the meeting in question, which was exclusively a business meeting, there were about sixty members present, it being delegates or representatives from subordinate Granges. The members present were from all parts of the county, and proved that the Grange in that county was alive, and its members looking after their business interests. There were many important and interesting subjects before the meeting, some of which, after being ably discussed were disposed of, and others of greater importance and not requiring immediate action, after discussion were laid on the table, to be taken up at their next meeting, which is to be at Sand Ridge on Saturday before the fourth Tuesday in May, at which place and time a full attendance is hoped for, as it will be the last meeting of the Council before the meeting of the State Grange.

This meeting was one of great interest, held in the hall of Lebanon Grange, and the long table in the hall below fairly groined with its load of good things provided by the Good sisters of Lebanon Grange.

DANIEL CLARE.
PLEASANT POINT FARM, April 21, 1879.

Veterinary Science.

Editor Willamette Farmer:
We were glad to see Mr. Withycombe's article in the paper a week ago, and hope some arrangement can be made with him to furnish similar articles on veterinary science every week, or if a question corner could be opened with him, so that farmers might ask for information respecting treatment of animal diseases, it would be very interesting. J. B. M.

The suggestion made above is favorably received, and we have no doubt Mr. Withycombe or some other man skilled in veterinary science will be willing to answer questions of the kind. Send on the questions.

Gov. STANFORD'S HORSES.—The stock ranch and summer residence of ex-Gov. Stanford, of California, contains about 300 highly-bred horses, and it requires a mile of stables to accommodate them. He is breeding his thoroughbred horses to trotting stallions; not especially with a view to the production of fast trotters, as some of our contemporaries would have us think, but as a means of laying the foundation for permanent improvement in the horse stock of that State, for general purposes; and in this he is not far out of the way. —National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.

Influenza Epidemic.

Editor Willamette Farmer:
I see by the papers that the farmers in some parts of the Willamette Valley are troubled with a disease amongst their horses, and noticed that several have died. It seems to baffle their skill to know what to call it or how to treat it successfully. I have within the last eight months treated over 100 horses suffering from the same disease, with only two cases terminating fatally. Having been successful in treating the disease, I think it nothing more than my duty to make known to the farmers of Oregon my mode of treatment.

The disease used to be known as "Epidemic Catarrhal Fever," but at present is generally termed "Influenza Epidemic." Symptoms differ a great deal in different horses, but they generally first appear stupid and weak, a disinclination to move, a deep, painful cough, appetite very slight, pulse accelerated and weak, breathes fast, limbs are alternately hot and cold, frequently trembling of hind quarters, discharge at nose a white, yellowish or greenish matter, harsh blowing sounds are heard in the chest, and membranes of nose assume a bright pink or dull leaden hue. Sometimes the lungs are seriously involved, at times there are symptoms of pneumonia, pleurisy, hydrothorax (water in chest), pericarditis (inflammation of the fibrous covering of the heart), clots sometimes form in the heart, modifying the heart sounds, and proving rapidly fatal. In other cases the abdominal organs suffer, there are colicky pains, ardent thirst, coated tongue, yellowness of the membranes of nose and eyes, bowels costive, sometimes rheumatic swelling takes place in muscles and joints of the limbs, and may last for months. In some cases the throat becomes very sore and swollen, can scarcely swallow anything.

As I mentioned in my last article, prevention is far better than cure,—not that the disease can be prevented, but by proper treatment of the horse, it can be modified to a great extent. The best and cheapest remedy that I have used is linseed (flaxseed). I have recommended feeding a common teaspoonful to each horse once a day with his regular feed, and have experienced good results from it. In several instances where I was called to see the first case of it in a stable, I recommended feeding linseed to the apparently healthy horses, and consequently they were affected very slightly. For mares in foal, I would advise the bran mash as a substitute. Where there is considerable weakness, give tonic medicine such as cinchona, 10 grains, compound tincture gentian, one-half ounce. Mix, and give for one dose with one-half pint of water. Give twice or three times a day.

When there is much fever and fast breathing, give sedatives, such as 30 drops of tincture of acouite in one-half a pint of cold water every four hours until fever abates; then give the tonic. Apply plenty of mustard to the throat, breast and sides once a day, to be gently rubbed in with the hand. Feed chiefly on bran mashes. In dry weather turn them out on a dry piece of pasture during the day. If very thirsty, give but little water at a time.

JAMES WITHYCOMBE, V. S.,
Portland, Or.

From Walla Walla.

Editor Willamette Farmer:
The climate of our Eastern Edge this spring resembles very much the average season in the Willamette Valley. A large acreage is sown to grain in the whole upper country, and the ground being thoroughly saturated with water and frequent showers following, insures almost beyond doubt an abundant crop the coming harvest.

A light frost last night. Diphtheria still in the country. Excuse brevity.
J. F. BREWER.

Tragedy at Dayton.

Last Sunday evening a shocking tragedy occurred at Dayton, which resulted in the death of one Fred Lance, a man well known among the sporting crew. He was the husband of a fast woman known as Mollie Rodgers. Dayton is her present home. There Fred Lance met her last Sunday night. Before leaving this city, he told sundry parties that he was going there to kill his wife for nameless reasons. It seems they had been married about six years ago, but would part and live together again whenever it suited their voluptuous fancy. When he entered her abode he found a soldier there, to whom he said: "Get!" Then he turned to Mollie, so she says, threw her upon the sofa, and with pistol in hand threatened to kill her. She in her fright threw up her hands and in the scuffle to save her life, the pistol got turned and was discharged, the ball entering the would-be murderer, and he died the next day. —Walla Walla Watchman.

TO HORSE BREEDERS.—Grierson & Pugh, Salem, have an advertisement in the FARMER this week of their fine Clydesdale stallions Rob Roy and Merry Mason. These splendid imported animals are kept at Salem, and gave satisfaction last season.

Mixed Farming—Continued.

Editor Willamette Farmer:
In our last we treated this subject in a general way. But we would like to refer back to the subject of milk cows, and note a few items in connection with mixed farming.

All farms are not alike in their adaptation to this department of agriculture, but almost every farm may support with profit the small dairy of from three to ten cows. Our remarks are particularly directed to the "small farmer," many of whom have farms in the foothills and small valleys, better adapted to this kind of farming (and we may say, or any other kind), than are the plains. The farm dairy, properly managed, is a source of great profit, and assists any farmer, however large, to defray table or family expenses.

Butter or cheese-making is as much an art as any other, but it may soon be learned with careful application and attention, and by aid of the best helps, among which is "Willard's Practical Dairy Husbandry." To the beginner this work is invaluable (we are in no way interested in the sale of this work), and if they will practice the hints therein contained, may learn to manufacture the best article of butter or cheese. A good article of either will always be in demand at a fair and remunerative price, while a poor article is dull sale at any price.

We will mention now another department that the mixed farmer may at least investigate, if not engage in,—fruit. Every family having a half acre of land ought to cultivate enough of the small fruits for their own use, and with a little additional care, add several dollars to the annual income. A market is always open in their nearest town or city. Among these we would mention strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, and in fact all the small fruits in their season may be raised with but little trouble and expense, and contribute largely to the comfort, enjoyment and health of the small farmer's family. We know of an instance of a neighbor having about a quarter acre in blackberries of the Lawton variety, two seasons ago, using freely and canning liberally for their own use, and paying for assistance to gather out of them, sold \$17.50 worth at the time of our knowledge of the circumstance, and the season was not yet quite over. This is not an extra case of forced production, for the bushes were set out previous to 1871, and to our knowledge have not had cultivation since that date, except to top the bushes a little at the proper season. A good variety of all the larger fruits should be on every farm, as nothing is more healthful.

The subject of fruit-raising on a large scale may well engage the attention of many farmers in the Willamette Valley, and we venture the prediction that it is destined to become one of the greatest industries and resources of our favored State. And with the world standing at our door for a market, the business and its market will never fail.

GREENVILLE, Or., April 14, 79. J. B. M.

Progressive Farming.

The introduction of improved machinery has not as yet led to a corresponding increase of crops. It has not led to a more thorough culture, or at least to an increase in the annual yield per acre of the cereal crops. In unusually favorable seasons we are apt to console ourselves with the reflection that more fruitful seasons are in store for us.

Progressive farming means something more than the taking off and putting nothing on process. It implies that we must first find out what the soil needs, and how we can best supply that need by a judicious system of rotation and the economical application of un-leached barn-yard, as well as commercial manures. It also implies a better knowledge of raising and fattening stock; of sheep-raising for mutton or wool, or both combined; of fruit-raising, entomology, agricultural chemistry, vegetable physiology, and other kindred subjects.

The progressive farmer is, or should be, one who possesses not only a trained hand, but a cultivated brain. He is eminently practical. He reads, reflects, and then acts. He can give a good reason for everything he does. He experiments, yet so as to produce profitable results, and cares but little for mere theories unsupported by practice. He realizes fully that more scientific and experimental knowledge is needed in the occupation of the farmer than in that of any other. —Cin. Grange Bulletin.

FINE WHEAT LANDS.—Land hunters have recently been investigating the region of country in and about Gold Spring, Vanayekle and Juniper Canyons, in the northwestern part of Umatilla County, and find that there are thousands of acres of the finest quality of wheat lands vacant there, to be had for all taking. Water in abundance is found at all points, by digging from eight to twenty feet. A good road has been laid out from the Columbia River, at a fine point for a steam-boat landing, near HoLo Island, to Pendleton, which is only twenty-six miles long and has no heavy grades. This region should be examined by immigrants. It is fifteen to twenty-five miles from Walla Walla in a south-easterly direction and about the same distance from Walla Walla, southwesterly. —Walla Walla Union.

The Intelligent Farmer.

The farmer, of all living men, needs to think continually. His farm is a bundle of possibilities, immeasurable in extent, and incalculable in number. There is a reason which stands with quiet patience behind each operation of nature's laws, and each task which comes to his busy hands is charged, and doubly charged with deepest meaning. Elasticity and cohesion unite to hold the nails he drives into his fence posts; gravitation helps him to irrigate; the wood of century-groving oaks is bottled-up sunlight for his heretofore; mysteriously over his fields of wheat currents of electricity flow like rivers, and sunlight which has crossed dim leagues of space, helps to color his red astracan apples.

Whoever knows these and similar things, ought to make his life a daily blessing, and live as if indeed in the very presence of endless power, and limitless beauty, and all-abiding affection. It is at one time the grass growing noiselessly and toiling with all its little strength to fulfill its destiny and be ripe grain. Or it is the strange, sweet contentment of lowing herds as they move softly past in the twilight hour. Or it is the joyous morning time, when "Ho for the field" is the word. Such moments will mean more and be sweeter to the intelligent farmer than to one who is careless and ignorant, because he will understand each subtle hint and connection.

But there are for the thoughtful farmer of to-day other problems more serious than those of nature's operations. He who attempts, in so far as in him lies, to cultivate the intellectual parts of his nature must feel that there are mysterious problems which haunt the very atmosphere. Labor and capital; free trade and protection; production and over production; currency; and other questions of vast import and terrible significance, are before the people. The farmer who will not take the time for thought on questions of social and political science in this rapid, busy age, is a deserter from the ranks of earnest men. We need active thought and systematic effort.

If men will only think for themselves, truth wins. The plainer of men becomes a hero, and his blunt words shape men's souls when he has forged his sentence, by many an hour of lonely thought, and sharp questioning. Farmers must meet together as often as possible and discuss with good nature and fairness the great questions which daily loom up more evidently before us. Good government is not a sentimental affair of holiday oratory; neither is it a mechanical arrangement, once to be started and thenceforward safely perpetual. Nothing else which toiling men have created is one-half so complex, so much in need of continual, thoughtful care, as that nice relationship of counterbalancing powers and checks which we call Government. So it becomes each intelligent farmer, and in broader terms, each intelligent man, whatever be his work, to search for himself the records of history, the pages of the best writers, the thoughtful conclusions of human leaders, taking nothing on trust and listening to no temporary unreasoning clamor. Honest, self-poised, fearless men, whose reasons are deeply wrought and their own, are what we need most in these eventful years. —Ex.

Educating Young Horses.

Rev. W. H. Murray gives, in the Golden Rule, the following directions for educating, or, as it is used to be called, "breaking in" young horses:

If you have a colt to teach, and have the habit of speaking loudly or sharply, correct yourself at once. Colts are timid, high-spirited things, if they are worth anything, and he who manages them should be of quiet habits and have a low, pleasant-toned voice. The trainer that yells, stands in the same category as the driver in the public race who screams and whoops like a Comanche Indian when on the home-stretch; the one should be banished from the track, and the other turned out of the gentleman's stables. Our method of educating a colt to the harness and wagon, is to educate him singly, by himself; and this education should be begun very early. When the colt is twelve or fourteen months old, begin to put the harness on him. In a few weeks he is accustomed to it and ready for the shafts. But in doing this, do not be in a hurry. Give the youngster time to get used to gentle rubbing with every strap and buckle, as it were. Let him see everything and smell everything. The senses of sight, smell and touch are the great avenues of knowledge to a horse, especially the last two. The ear and eye give the alarm. The two organs stand, as it were, on picket for the animal's safety. But if your horse is frightened at anything, let him smell and touch it with his nose, and smell of it a few times, and he will soon understand that it will not hurt him. If he is inclined to kick or jump if the breeching band or any strap hits his hams or legs, by gentle rubbing them against the sensitive places he will soon become indifferent to them also. By the time the colt is two years of age, or even less, he should be educated to go between the shafts, either forward or backward, and be thoroughly familiar with the harness and vehicle, and ordinary road service.

This pleasant weather has given a new impetus to all kinds of business. Frank Abell, the photographer is kept busy at his rooms. Come early and get a sitting.

Preparing Wool for Market.

There is small room for doubting that it is to the ultimate interest of sheep breeders to so cultivate their flocks as to induce the growth of the greatest possible weight of cleaned wool for their expenditure of labor and food. With each recurring season comes the usual avalanche of advice from middle-men and manufacturers, topped off with an embolism of the great advantage to the grower in placing his wools upon the market in the lightest possible condition. Certainly, no teaching of the Journal has been at a variance with this proposition. There is, however, one view of the situation which the complaining parties seem to have overlooked, i. e., that the would-be teachers are, by their action, continually discouraging any general adoption of their precepts.

Wool-growers will average with the best half of humanity; but as the majority of men will be found acting in the line of their present advantage, those who repeat to the wool-grower the oft-reiterated maxims favoring clean washing, early shearing, neat rolling and a minimum of string, to-day, and to-morrow offer them no more, or very little more, than the price paid for wool not so systematically manipulated, must attribute the failure of their teachings to that excusable selfishness of man which prompts him to realize for his capital and labor the maximum result consistent with law and equity. The incentive to wool-growing is money making; and so long as the flock-holder can get more money for the fleece of a sheep when unwashed, or half-washed, or one that, after having been properly washed, was allowed to remain on the sheep until the normal amount of grease had been restored, just so long will fleeces be found as heavy as legitimate means can make them. The manufacturer or dealer who expects an opposite result, must base such expectations upon elements of character seldom found outside the lists of those who are prompted solely by philanthropy.

The growing and selling of heavy fleeces—fleeces carrying a large amount of grease and gum—is altogether legitimate, so long as the seller practices no deception by concealing the true condition of his product. The man who would buy an invoice of wool without examining its condition and quality, or having such examination made by some competent party, would find in his carrying a more appropriate field for the display of his peculiar qualifications than a wool-loft can ever afford. As markets usually run, the grower gets more money per head of sheep for heavy wool, than for the same fleece in the lightest possible condition; and so long as such a premium on heavy fleeces is held out to their pockets, all appeals to the ears of men will be but as the noise of "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." Wool will, as a rule, be made as light as possible, and its subsequent manipulation attended to with the most rigid oversight, whenever the market shows a premium upon such observance; but until that time very little change from the present practices need be looked for. —National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.

Shearing Sheep.

According to an interesting paper by Prof. Freitag, of Halle, it is only since the sixteenth century that the practice of shearing sheep has been followed in Germany. Previous to that date the wool was separated by simply plucking it out—a process that was found to be greatly facilitated by penning up the sheep closely and keeping them without food for a few days before the operation. This system still obtains in some northern European countries, and the professor had an opportunity of personally witnessing it during his late travels in certain parts of Norway and Sweden, and in Iceland and several other islands. In these regions the short-tailed sheep—ovis borealis—which, like other mountain races, changes its hair yearly, is the variety chiefly kept; and the fleece is plucked off in June, after its bearer has been subjected to a few days' starvation. The ordinary breeds of sheep met with in most other countries do not change their coat, as has been clearly demonstrated by exhaustive experiments. They have been left unshorn for four, seven and even eleven years, without any fresh growth being observed, although the original coat continued to increase by simple prolongation of the individual hairs. The rate of growth is fastest during the first three years of the sheep's life, after which time it decreases gradually and considerably. It is demonstrated that the growth each year is most luxuriant immediately after the shearing, in June or July; while in the winter months, as might be expected, it is most marked in winter time, when the severity of weather demands additional protection. —London Farmer.

SHARP MUST BE KEPT THREAT.—When the right sheep have been put in the right place, it will be necessary to bear in mind that every check they receive—as from want of food, exposure to extreme temperature, unsuitable pasture, or whatever else may stop their thriving—will not only check the growth of the wool, but will cause a weak place in it, which will break in the hands of the wool-sorters, and greatly reduce the value of the fleece. To grow good wool of any kind, the sheep must be kept thriving. And one cardinal rule must always be borne in mind, namely, that the most valuable wool and the most valuable mutton cannot be produced on the same sheep. —Correspondence National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.

Extravagant Habits.

One of the social wonders of the world in recent times was the ability and readiness with which the French people met the enormous tax or fine which their German conquerors laid upon them at the end of the last war. One thousand millions of dollars in cash were paid within a few months without any foreign aid, and without any effort that was noticeable outside of France. The secret of this wonderful financial ability lay in the long-cherished and practical habits of economy and saving usual amongst the French people. For years past, as to-day, that people have been simple in their habits, industrious, sober, economical, and when they have a few francs to spare, they are carefully laid away. There is no eager grasping after large profits, large interest, usurious lendings, nor is there that eager desire to spend money as soon as it is possessed, that is common with us. Nor is it from avarice, that the passion springs; on the contrary, it is a desire for something more than the ordinary competence, some store against a rainy day, that impels those people to exercise those virtues for which they have become noted and which are among their most conspicuous attributes on personal acquaintance with them. A son is to be sent to college or started on a small farm, the smallness of which would be ludicrous to an American, especially a Western farmer; or a daughter must be provided with her dot to start housekeeping with; and with habits of forethought cultivated for years and pursued with steadiness, there is no "curst third fortune" for spending, but a careful husbanding for future needs. And this homely virtue saved the nation in a time of great disaster, and saves it every day from panics, collapses and frequent bankruptcies.

We might take a lesson from this. We labor and make money to spend, not to save. The desire to spend is innate. The child says, "when I have ten cents I will buy this or that with it." Our boys inheriting it, crowd to the cities to seek a rapid fortune, and our girls dream meanly day by day of a better position. Society is to some extent debased by it. It is through this that sheriffs have been enabled to retire on a competency after two or three years of official life, gathering together the lost fortunes of hapless debtors ground between the millstones of the law and exacting creditors. And still we are getting no better.

What a land and what a nation this would be if we could but engrain upon ourselves some of the French habit of economy and thrift; if, when we had made a hundred dollars, we could be content to let it remain in safe-keeping without trying to double it by inquiry or speculation, or use it for some more noble purpose. Consider the last fifteen years of our history with the same period in French history, and it will be found that the greater part of our financial difficulties have arisen from our want of the French habits referred to. —Ex.

Treatment of Cows at Calving.

Cows in good condition should be watched carefully for any symptoms of fever; for its progress is so rapid in some cases as to afford little time for treatment. The early symptoms are, dullness, languor, red eyes, hot head and horns, a strong pulse, sometimes uneasy movements of the hind legs, the cow then lying down, placing its head on its flank, or striking its horns on the ground. Sometimes the symptoms are only fever, rapid pulse, and quick and strong breathing, with loss of power over limbs; want of sensation, torpor of bowels and bladder. One of the best things to do in case of an attack, is to apply moderately cold water to the whole body; and this is best done by placing a woollen blanket around the cow, from udder to foreleg, and pouring water between the blanket and the body, wetting the body and blanket thoroughly, covering with a dry blanket if the weather is cool. Matting or old carpeting is good to place around the body; place it under, and bring the ends together over the back. If the cow is down, roll her over on the blanket, having first wetted it, and also the side of the cow. This wetting will produce a faintness and gradual cooling of the whole surface of the body, modifying the fever, and usually producing relief in a short time. If it is that form of the disease in which there is great heat of the head, pour ice-cold water upon the head between the horns, at the same time that water is applied to the whole body; and as it cools the udder it swells and hot, it should be treated with the water-gate, which is made by a quart of water in the milk, or a quart of water in the udder. This may be made of cold-water, or better of cold-water, large enough to enclose the udder, counting up to the body. Fasten at the top, held up by a strap over the back, and filled with soft water of a moderate temperature—say sixty-five degrees. This will cool the irritation in the udder, and the water can be changed when it becomes warm. Give at the same time copious injections of blood-warm water, which will assist in relieving the bowels and intestines. It is well to chafe the back and hips gently. We have seen the applications work well, even when the cow was unable to rise, and had passed beyond the bleeding stage.

We give this rational treatment, because it may be applied by the dairyman himself, with great hope of success, when he cannot have the skill of the veterinarian, and will save many more cows than any attempt of the dairyman himself to apply veterinary medicine. —National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.