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PIONEER REUNION.

We hope our readers will not forget that the annual Reunion of Oregon Pioneers takes place next Tuesday and a great Grange gathering at the State Fair grounds, Salem.

The WILLAMETTE FARMER will be represented there and you can subscribe or renew subscriptions.

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

The movements of great capitalists are significant, for they indicate in what direction money naturally turns for development. Just at present there is a movement in moneyed circles that indicates that capital interests itself in the future of the Columbia River region.

Another fact that confirms the interest taken in our affairs by the Union Pacific capitalists is the jealousy manifested by the managers of the Central Pacific, the great California rival of the Northern Pacific whose interests are at present identical but threaten to diverge.

But the point we wish to make is that these corporations and capitalists are not striving without an object. Far-seeing men have discovered a mine of wealth in the future of Oregon and Washington, and are disposed to spend their millions to take advantage of the promise of our future.

DAVIDSON BROS. are good photographers.

CROP PROSPECTS.

With some exceptions the outlook for crops through the Willamette valley is good, and East of the mountains it could not well be improved. Through French Prairie, along the railroad, there is much flat land, and here the impression is that the yield will be poor and the area in cultivation is small compared with what would be the case if the weather had been favorable in April and May.

Other parts of French Prairie, away from the railroads, are less flat, and we hear that crop prospects are good there. Mr. Hoult says the outlook for the southern portion of Calapoia creek, he considers excellent, and in all other parts of the county, while some will be losers, the crop will average well.

Lane county gives promise of great returns. Marion county, except a portion of French Prairie, will yield remarkably well, and on the west side of the river, where the land is mostly rolling, the prospect could hardly be improved.

A farmer from Lane county called on us a few days ago, and spoke of the fact that much ground was too foul to cultivate and men were cropping in a way to ruin their farms. It requires very little science or sense to determine that a farmer cannot thrive without he does good work.

FROM LEBANON, LINN COUNTY.

Mr. David Smith writes us from Lebanon: "We are about done seeding here, and all grain looks fine that was sown early this spring. The fall sown does not look so well, as there has been too much rain."

I am trying to make up a club for your paper; am going to the Linn County Council to-morrow and shall work for it there. We, as Grangers, should all take the FARMER, as it is our paper and devoted to our interests.

Apple Tree Blight.

FOX VALLEY, Linn Co., June 7, 1879. Editor Willamette Farmer: My orchard has been visited with the blight or spot. I will describe it. The leaves turn black, crisp up and fall off. Some trees shed nearly all their leaves in this way, others near by are not so bad.

A. D. GARDNER.

PIONEER REUNION PROGRAMME.

The Oregon Pioneer Association will hold its Seventh Annual Reunion at the State Fair Grounds, near Salem, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17 and 18, 1879. The following is the programme:

Punctually at 10:30 A. M. the procession will form on the plank walk at the railroad depot, under the direction of Chief Marshal, and led by the Washington Guard Band, will march as follows:

Band, Standard Bearer, President and Vice-President, Chaplain and Orator, Members of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer.

Invited Guests, male and female, Members of the Society, male and female, who came into the Territory previous to January, 1841, followed by the thirteen divisions to January, 1864, each division with appropriate banner.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. J. S. Griffin. Opening address by the President. Annual address by Hon. W. H. Rees. Recess.

AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

At 1 o'clock P. M., occasional address by Hon. Ralph C. Geer, on the immigration of 1847. Half-past 2 o'clock, volunteer speeches. From 4 to 5 o'clock, concert by band. At 7 o'clock, dancing in the Pavilion. At 7 o'clock, the Pioneers' Camp-fire will be lighted, at which time short addresses will be delivered, with time limited to fifteen minutes each.

PIONEER BALL.

Honorary Committee—M. P. Deady, Jas. K. Kelly, R. P. Boise, P. P. Prim, W. W. Thayer, R. P. Karhart, Ed. Hirsch, W. S. Newbury, G. W. Gray, Col. John E. Ross, Gen. John F. Miller, J. H. D. Gray. Reception Committee—J. R. Herren, Ben Straung, C. W. Anderson, Jno. Steiwer, E. A. Poindexter, John M. Georrie, S. A. Fox.

Tickets to ball, \$2. Good music employed. The sale of intoxicating liquors and games of chance on the ground positively prohibited. The grounds and buildings free and camping facilities will be furnished to all who may wish to camp on the grounds.

Certificates for free passage to return home will be given to all who paid full fare on going, by the Secretary, who alone is authorized to furnish the same. The public is cordially invited. By the Board of Directors, M. CRAWFORD, President. J. HENRY BROWN, Secretary.

Mammoth Cave in Southern Oregon.

WILDERVILLE, June 1, 1879.

The writer of this, accompanied by five others, Messrs. Benj. Bull, William Bull, George W. Carey, M. T. Stevens and George W. Brown, paid a visit to the Cheney Creek Cave one day last week for the purpose of exploring it.

This cave is situated in Josephine County, near Wilderville, and near the left branch of Cheney Creek—no! Cherry Creek—and was first discovered, strange as it may appear, some thirteen years ago by Charles Gregory. It is found in a mountain of pure limestone of great value. The entrance to the cave is marked by a prominent cliff of limestone rock, which rises almost to a perpendicular height of thirty or forty feet.

It is thought that this cave penetrates the mountain to a great distance. Our party explored it to a supposed distance of 300 feet or more, on the main course, at the end of which was discovered another large room more beautiful than anything we had yet seen, the opening being so small as to not permit us entering it. A few hours' labor, however, with proper tools, would force an entrance. We also discovered on the main course what seemed to us to be another cavern, some 20 feet below us. A number of side apartments were also explored, in one of which were found the bones of an animal of the beaver species, also the remains of what was supposed to have been a species of large fish.

Much more might be written descriptive of this cave, of its brilliant stalactites, its crys-

tal founts, its fretted halls and its marble-like floors, but time and space will not permit an extended description. I can say this much, however, that it is really a wonderful cave, though perhaps not so magnificent or grand as was Aladin's fabulous cavern of antiquity, or the enchanted grotto of Antiporas. Yet there is much to interest or excite the curiosity of even the most fastidious.

Having spent a good part of the day in and about the cave, we took our leave of it and climbed up the mountain side for a short distance above to catch a view of the surrounding scenery, which was both lovely and grand, and then retraced our steps homeward, well pleased with our day's adventure. S. A. BOROUGH.

A Question.

Editor Willamette Farmer: In what occupation did the first pioneers to this State engage? Was it farming or mining? Please answer through the WILLAMETTE FARMER. C. W. J.

CROPS.—Reports from various parts of the county represent the grain crop as promising a greater yield per acre, and a much larger acreage than is usual. Fall sown wheat is especially abundant and forward, and should the weather prove propitious, harvest will come on much earlier than usual. The prospect of the fruit crop is not very encouraging, owing principally to the unprecedented rains of the past month, and to the very cool weather which has prevailed during that time. Small fruits, such as cherries, plums, etc., are badly damaged, while peaches are almost a total failure; apples are not doing well, and the crop will probably be much lighter than usual.—Independence Riverside.

Broadcast Seeders.

LAFAYETTE, May 26, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer: I wish to make a few inquiries through your valuable paper. First, is there such a machine as a broadcast seeder imported or manufactured in Oregon that can be used as broadcast seeder or cultivator at pleasure? If any of your correspondents know of any such machine they will confer a favor on a subscriber by making the fact known through your paper. Yours, etc., JOHN F. DERRY.

Weather Report for May, 1879.

During May, 1879, there were 18 days during which rain fell, with an aggregate of 6.94 inches of water; three clear days and ten cloudy days other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 61.97°. Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 66° on the 31st. Lowest daily mean, 43° on the 9th. Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 59.97°.

Highest record of thermometer for the month 82° at 2 P. M. on the 31st. Lowest thermometer for the month, 42° at 7 A. M. on the 9th.

There was a light frost on the morning of the 9th. Thunder and lightning with hail and rain on the evening of the 21st, the hail lasting about three minutes at this point. In the valley near here and at Salem the hail was very heavy, lasting about 50 minutes, the hailstones being as large as walnuts in some instances. It was not accompanied by high winds.

The prevailing winds were from the southwest during 14 days; south six days; north eight days; north-west three days.

During May, 1878, there were four rainy days and 0.87 in. of water, nine clear days and 18 cloudy days. Mean temperature, 54.50. Highest daily do., 65° on the 7th. Lowest do., 45° on the 1st. T. PEARCE. EOLA, June 3d, 1879.

Albany Farmers' Co.

This staunch old company held its annual business meeting at the office in this city on last Tuesday, at which time the following Directors were elected to serve during the ensuing year: David Smith, Alex. Brandon, A. Wheelon, Thos. Froman, M. H. Wilds, David Honck and Geo. F. Simpson. At a meeting of the Directors held on the same day M. H. Wilds and D. Mansfield were re-elected to the positions of President and Secretary and E. P. McClure again received the appointment of Superintendent of the Albany Warehouse, while the warehouse at Tangent was put in charge of Mulkey Vernon. The reports from the officers show that the Company is doing a paying business, and the stock is above par. It is a common thing to hear it said that farmers are not capable of transacting commercial business, but the success of this institution is sufficient proof to the contrary.—Democrat.

BEAVERTON GRANGE.

BEAVERTON, Or., June 7, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In response to your request for information of matters pertaining to the doings of the Grange, I send you an account of a meeting at our hall June 7th, of more than usual interest. According to previous arrangement made at the County Council some time since it was decided to hold fraternal and social meetings alternately at the different Grange Halls in the county. On this occasion the following Granges were represented by a fair attendance of the intelligent and working members: Hillsboro, West Union, and Farmington Granges. The Grange was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M., when the following was some of the business of importance transacted: Programme for the Grange Fair to be held some time this fall was adopted, Fair to hold two days. All are invited to attend and place articles on exhibition and compete for premiums.

On motion T. Tucker, J. D. Wilmot and Mary L. Wilmot were appointed delegates to attend the Pomona District Grange to be held at Oswego, the third Friday in June. Dinner hour having arrived all assembled around a long and well filled table in the basement of the hall. To say that the dinner was good would not fully express it; it should have been seen and partaken of to be fully appreciated. In the afternoon the exercises were conducted under the head of "Good of the Order" and proved quite interesting. Impromptu speeches were made by a number of brothers.

Robert Imbrie of West Union Grange, said they had a good number of members who were determined to stand by the Grange. Gave instances of the members of his Grange combining in business matters and the benefits they had received by such concert of action.

Mr. Powell of Farmington Grange spoke of the discouragements to most and overcome in keeping up the Grange. Cited instances to show where the organization had accomplished good. Where they unite energy and brains, they make it a success.

T. Tucker of Beaverton Grange, spoke of the benefits of the organization; when we are benefited intelligently it laid the foundation for being benefited financially. Waists his children taught in the principals of the Order.

R. B. Wilmot of Beaverton Grange, thought the educational feature had been too much neglected especially in the earlier history of the organization; such was true at least in his Grange. Grangers should show by the superiority of their crops and improvements in all their farm operations that their meetings have made them better farmers and more intelligent citizens.

T. D. Humphries of Hillsboro Grange, reviewed the history of the Order at some length. We are reaping the advantages of the Grange organization in this State and in the United States. The effect is still to be felt and we should strive to hold the position that we have gained. Showed the great benefit that had resulted in admitting woman into the organization to share its labors and councils and to partake of its benefits.

The sisters were urged to favor the meeting with some remarks but with their characteristic modesty and diffidence preferred to remain silent, to be seen rather than heard. The next general meeting will be held at West Union, June 14th. Mr. Imbrie gave a cordial invitation to all to attend at that time. W.

About the Cost of Harvesting.

COTTAGE GROVE, June 1st, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer: In the last FARMER I noticed an editorial headed "The Cheapest Harvester," in review of Mr. Dan Clark.

The last grain that I had bound cost me \$1.00 per acre for binding, and 25 cents per acre for sheeking. The straw was from three to seven feet long, the wheat yielding 30 bushels per acre, the oats 50. It took four days to thresh it out of the stack with a ten-horse Pitts Thresher, the amount being about 60 acres.

The next year I delivered the grain off of the same ground to an eight-horse thresher, which did the work in three days, not leaving a bushel on the ground, at a cost of \$12.50 per day, the wheat averaging 36 1/2 bushels per acre. I did this with an old header. Now which was the cheapest? It always costs more to thresh heavy grain out of the stack than to cut and deliver it to the thresher with a header. But when grain yields but five to fifteen bushels per acre, the scale turns the other way. J. P. TAYLOR.

Dr. Knaw consults his patients in regard to catarrh free.

Communications Laid Over.

We are obliged to lay over until next week several very interesting communications. One from Mr. A. R. Shipley, and "Train No. 11." Our friends are treating us handsomely, by sending news from every section of our State. These short communications are exceedingly interesting to all.

HAWLEY, DODD & CO.

This old house is selling the Buckeye Mower and Reaper, which is just now fully in the fashion. It has an old established reputation with Oregon farmers and the above firm is now selling them rapidly. Among all the changes in farm machinery the manufacturers hold their own with the Buckeyes.

They are also selling the Canton Pitts Thresher, claimed to be the champion thresher of the world, which they have been selling for several years and has a great reputation with those who have used them. The reputation made by actual work done has proved to be the best advertisement of this machine. In connection with this machine they have the Canton Pitts Horse Power, and the Gear Scott & Co.'s threshing engines, a portable engine that has no superior. They also sell the Elwood Harvester, as they have for years past, and its reputation is also established to their advantage by its extensive use among west coast farmers. It has a self-binding attachment, and can be used with or without the binder.

We cannot indicate in a paragraph all the machines this firm sells, but can point to their long record as merchants in this city, and that they furnish all sorts of hardware, farm wagons and farm tools, plows, huggies and hacks, so that it will be for the interest of any farmer visiting this city to call and examine their stock.

D. W. PRENTICE & CO.

It is ever a pleasure to us to record the success of an honorable business house in our midst. Having lately had several commissions in the music line to attend to for friends living in the interior, and as we were not instructed to patronize any special firm, but to buy where the best bargains could be had, we were naturally led to "cash in hand," resolved to purchase of the firm that dealt most liberally and sold goods that were of acknowledged worth. After having visited the various houses in the music line we stepped into the large and well-known house of D. W. Prentice & Co., 168 First street, and here not only found by far the largest stock of everything pertaining to the music business, from a jawharp to a fine piano or organ, but also that their prices were much lower, everything being sold at New York prices.

We were at once shown what we desired by a courteous clerk, made our purchases, and were about to leave, fully satisfied with goods and prices, when we were called back into the office by the genial proprietors to have a pleasant chat. During the conversation we learned much regarding the music trade and of the magnitude of business done by this enterprising house. While in the office two telegrams arrived ordering two Estey organs and one Weber piano, and numbers of their Monthly Musical Journal, which is fast becoming a household word among musical families throughout the entire State. The subscription price of this Journal is only seventy-five cents per year, and it contains from \$15 to \$20 worth of new vocal and instrumental music, besides attractive local and foreign musical criticisms and news.

We noticed among their shipping receipts duplicate bills of lading for instruments and goods shipped to almost every city, town and hamlet, in Oregon, and Washington Territory. Their stock of sheet music and music books, is as large as any house west of Chicago, while their facilities for supplying musical merchandise, including pianos and organs, are equal to any house in San Francisco. The success of this house was achieved through honest and liberal dealings with their trade and a judicious amount of printer's ink. The instruments they deal in are the matchless Weber pianos, which are the artist's favorite the world over. The Mansfield and Nutui upright pianos and the Haines Bros. and Pease & Co. grand square and upright pianos and the celebrated Estey and Standard Organs, which are already too well-known throughout the country to need any praise from us. We left, feeling confident that we could continuously recommend our friends to patronize D. W. Prentice & Co., for anything in the music line.

FRANK ABELL, First Street, Portland, Oregon, takes all kinds of pictures in all kinds of weather, and in the best of manner.