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SOME PLAIN TALK.

We have often asserted that the Oregon farmer was destroying the future of the State and robbing the children of their heritage by continual cropping of land to wheat, the most exhaustive crop they can raise.

The lands that have been cropped for twenty years must rest and be recuperated. Nature had been thousands of years engaged in preparing this valley to be a home for man, and it takes man but a generation to waste what Time has built up in a thousand centuries.

Mr. Archibald, of Tangent, says he has put one hundred acres of his old farming land down to grass—timothy—to make pasture of it, and complains that the trouble here is that grasses produce no fodder of consequence in the summer.

Three winters ago we raised a question about pasture grasses, and after much discussion we seem to ascertain something more of the value of orchard grass, and also that velvet grass or mesquite grass, though not so well liked by all stock, grows winter and summer and keeps greener in summer than any other grass.

Years ago, in view of these facts, we asserted that pasture grasses offered the most important subject for experiment. The native pastures have disappeared, and the question has not yet been decided as to what grasses can be kept green and growing and succulent through the dry summer.

The old established nursery of G. W. Walling & Son, Oswego, is prepared to fill heavy orders this season.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RAILROADS.

We will publish next week the petitions of the National Grange concerning the enactment of laws to relieve the country from excessive exactions of railroad companies. The Chicago Tribune, in a lengthy editorial, urges the necessity of prompt action by the government to secure fair rates for transportation, and no one who is disinterested can doubt the need of some legislation that will check and thwart the rapacity of the giant corporations that control our land.

Practically, a railroad is more or less of a monopoly, simply because while one road may be unreasonable in its exactions, capital knows that two roads cannot be built over the same ground. The adding of another steamer to an ocean or river trade is possible, but a railroad, with its feeders and branch roads, cannot be opposed by competition, for it would be a waste of millions to undertake it.

Oregon has her rivers to depend upon, and when the Columbia is made free to navigation as the Willamette now is, our producers will in a measure be relieved by natural competition, and State legislation can interfere to regulate fares and freights, but this petition calls for national legislation to regulate inter-State communication by railroads, and this is also a matter in which we hope to have an interest at no distant day.

THE RECENT STORM.

As we learn more fully the devastating effects of the storm of Friday, the 9th of January, we realize that it left calamity in its track and it is very doubtful if the history of Oregon for a century back, could it be truly written, would show any similar devastation. The description given by correspondents from different sections show the frightful nature of the tempest and give a correct idea of the ravages committed. The scene beggared description in many localities, and was accompanied with loss of life and destruction of much stock and injury to valuable property.

The most serious apprehensions are entertained of the consequences that may be expected in case that fires shall get abroad next summer. That fires will catch or be set, if there is an ordinary dry season, we have no doubt. For miles and miles of distance the forests lie nearly prostrate and the immense amount of dry and inflammable material that will be spread on the ground will invite terrible conflagrations, and if they occur may result in great destruction of valuable crops and property.

The greatest care must be had, and whenever possible to do so the fires should be anticipated, and where the ground cannot be cleared of rubbish any other way, it should be burned over with care so as to anticipate the wilder storm of fire that will be sure to follow a general conflagration.

The calamity comes hard on many who were already suffering from failure of crops, and is to be greatly deplored.

CORRECTION.—Mrs. C. E. Shipley was made to say that the finest scenery she saw was at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, while she meant to say that the finest scenery she saw in Ohio was at Mt. Vernon. Ohio furnishes no such scenery as can be seen in crossing the Sierras or the Rocky Mountains.

AMONG THE FARMERS.

BY ONE OF THEM—NO. 1.

Editor Willamette Farmer: SOBER REFLECTIONS ON A SNOWY DAY. Farmers ought to be a patient class, for they must dispose of what they have to sell, at such prices as are offered them, and for such articles as are bought by them they must pay whatever is asked. Then the farmer plants in the hope of a good crop and must patiently wait for future developments.

Another farmer, J., feeds his horses carrots and bright oats straw, nothing else, and his horses do well. Of course it is cheaper than threshed oats and timothy hay. Well, if it is cheaper and stock thrive as well and do as much work on the first as on the second, there is a saving to the farmer, and a saving by every farmer means much to the whole people.

Farmer X—piles manure from the stable out in the rain, allows it to stand, to heat and to burn. That is wrong. I can teach him something but would like to know more about making the most of manures myself before I try to instruct others. Perhaps some of your readers can tell us how to treat stable and other manures in order to derive the greatest benefit therefrom in the shortest time. My method is to pile when it begins to heat, fork it over and perhaps repeat the operation, then at odd spells in winter haul and dump in piles or spread from the cart direct. I once knew a farmer (?) turning a stream of water into his barnyard, thereby cleaning the yard in short order. It saved him work, but robbed his land.

I am a young farmer and have much to learn. Farmer K—has a fine farm, with a fine house and a fine barn, has plenty of money to run his farm with and aims to make it pay. I suppose he does. I learn something there too. He is fattening a nice lot of hogs. He feeds them on barley and potatoes both cooked together. It is cheaper than wheat, and makes good bacon. However he might save considerable labor. The floor to the pen in which the hogs are confined is six feet higher than the vat in which the food is soaked, necessitating a great amount of labor for nothing.

Thus we may learn from each other, and my neighbor's experience may profit me greatly. All wisdom is not in us. And if my neighbor's experience profits me, when given by word of mouth, why not as well from his pen? Then books may help us, even though wise in our own conceit. M. Vos. MOHAWK, Oregon.

To Cure Leach in the Liver.

Editor Willamette Farmer: As there appears to be considerable said by learned gentlemen through the FARMER concerning liver fluke or leach of the liver, but fail to give the readers of the FARMER a speedy cure of this disease. The cure is what the farmers of the Willamette valley want. There are different theories among farmers as regards the origin of this leach in the liver; some think the sheep eat them with the grass, others say the sheep drink them from stagnated pools of water, etc.

My theory is that the leach is natural to the sheep the same as bots to the horse. I am led to believe that all sheep have the leach more or less, even the deer of the forest have leach of the liver. Joseph Hamilton, of this county, tells me he never examined a sheep or lamb that had been killed for mutton but that had leach in the liver. My opinion is that sheep well kept are seldom troubled with leach.

Now for the cure or preventive: One pound of saleratus mixed with salt enough to salt a hundred head, given once a week for three weeks, will cure the worst cases of a diseased flock of sheep from leach, and continue to give every two or three weeks a half pound mixed with the salt, and my word for it, your sheep will never be troubled with leach any more. C. P. BURNETT. ALBANY, January 12, 1880.

Currency and Resumption.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

As you have generally given space in your columns to farmers and others for an expression of their opinions on subjects of interest I again avail myself of the privilege granted, bearing in mind that if wrong in my conclusions, that through the FARMER, all who desire may have the opportunity to correct me, (including the Editor.) It is a recognized fact that the press of the country is the prime educator of the people and we are educated right or wrong in accordance with its teachings. Taking this view, how thankful should the farming community be (who are perhaps as much interested in the future welfare and education of the people as any other profession) to have the opportunity offered by the press to present their views to the public on such subjects as may affect their interest. In this connection I would like to ask the farmers of Oregon to contrast the course of the WILLAMETTE FARMER and that of the Oregonian—the one offers the widest range to individual liberty by giving space to the diverse opinions of correspondents; the other (if we may judge by the way it disposed of Mr. Lang's article on wool and some others), would suppress all adverse opinions by refusing publication to anything not in harmony with the manager's opinions. Mr. Lang's article on wool growing showed that he had evidently given the subject considerable thought, and it would doubtless have been of interest to many of the readers of the Oregonian, but it did not accord with the policy of that paper, and accordingly had not been the FARMER or some other paper of reasonable liberality. The Oregonian may be a good newspaper but it is certainly a very selfish one, and how farmers can conscientiously tax themselves to support such an imposition is hard to explain, though I suppose it is because they do not understand its policy.

Mr. Editor, I see from the Oregon press as well as from Eastern papers, that there has lately been something of a revival in business East and I have heard it characterized as a boom born of specie resumption. But as the waves of prosperity that have swept the Atlantic during the last few months have not yet reached the Pacific, we look with anxiety to the future. It is admitted that there is always a cause for effect, and as we know that there has been a slight revival in business which has furnished work for the unemployed, (that were getting so clamorous for bread and clothes of late), in order to judge whether the revival will be permanent we must learn the nature of the cause.

The active demand for breadstuffs in the United States seems to have been caused by the almost entire failure in European crops. The extra work required of transportation, whereby railroads have made forty or fifty millions by raise on freights), was caused by both the large surplus in the United States, and the money realized from the raise on freights and the profits on extra freighting, at the original rates made it possible for railroads to repair, which is found to be necessary every few years, and this has given work to the iron manufacturers.

The extra work for railroads seems also to have influenced English capital to purchase United States railroads and this is certainly good policy in Europeans, seeing that the transportation companies have it in their own power to set their own price on transportation and consequently have the power to control the price, practically, of produce in the United States.

But I have not heard of any boom in the price of land, neither in this State or in the East. If some New York or London banker had bought several million dollars worth of farming land it would have looked more like a permanent boom in business; it would have shown that they thought there was money in farm lands, but the price of farm lands it seems have not been affected by the boom in the east and there is where the boom should have begun, at the foundation, and went up. Now what effect ordinarily would resumption of specie payment have on business? Would it make money plentier and cheaper, or would it be more like an individual engaged in business turning all his resources into money for the purpose of lifting his notes. Suppose his notes were circulating as money and he had promised to redeem them at a certain date in money and consequently was hoarding his money for that purpose, would that cause a revival in business when business depended on the circulation of money?

When the present contemplated demonstration of the outstanding \$150,000,000 greenbacks take place; and when the government is hoarding gold for their redemption, where will the boom be then, when Europe has a good crop and the farmers are in debt? Then the boom will depend on the circulation

of National bank notes subject to be contracted at any time by the bank that their convenience may require.

Now one more question I will submit for the time. If there is no constitutional power to create money, paper money, except in case of war, where is the constitutional power found to create an object that can create paper money. But some one rises to explain at once, and says that National bank notes are not legal tender and consequently not money. Then when the greenbacks are demonetized and the gold locked up we shall have no money circulation and the boom is a failure. OBSERVER.

Taxes and Labor.

CLACKAMAS Co., JAN. 7, 1880.

Editor Willamette Farmer: I will venture to put in my say on the subject "Lorain" and "H. E. H." have presented in their correspondence, viz: The hard times experienced by so many of our farmers. I have found by my own experience in clearing up a farm in the brush and timber that muscle must be freely applied, and that backed with good judgment, before anything of profit it can return, and if a person has not the muscle himself he has to hire it, and there is where the pinch comes. A friend of mine once asked me when I expected a return for the money I was paying hired men for taking up fir roots and leveling down hillsides. I told him he would have to figure that for himself as I could not answer it, yet it had to be done before I could cultivate the ground.

In spite of our best calculations we almost invariably find our expenses greater and our profits less than we anticipate, and therefore often venture more than we should. In regard to our taxes I have noticed that generally those who have the most to pay say the least about it, and the cry comes from those who have but little or no taxes to pay, but simply want to be heard, and with all their noise they are very careful to never ever hint at the greatest of all the burdens in the way of tax, that comes as the legitimate fruits from the schools taught in the saloon, with the following results: 1 Lack of attention to business. 2 Poverty. 3 Crime; when criminal costs come in as the tax payers share.

I would say to "H. E. H." to never mind the appeals; go to the foundation and roll the saloons over and our courts will wither like thistles cut before they have bloomed, but with the saloons in blast as they are now, we can better away at appeals and it would be like mowing the old dry thistle stalks after their seeds have flown.

"Lorain's" figures are well worth pondering over, and to the man who uses both tobacco and whisky I would suggest, for his family's sake, that he leaves off one bottle of whisky and one pound of tobacco for the year 1880 and subscribe for the WILLAMETTE FARMER.

We need more sober industrious people who will be contented with from forty to eighty acres of land, as that amount will abundantly support a family if well cultivated. With the present population land is necessarily owned in too large tracts and some who hold unimproved land borrow money to improve it, when they find pay day comes ahead before a profitable crop and with present rates of interest they often never catch up. Fend to us, in Clackamas county, a thousand families who are able to buy forty acres of land each, and if they will let whisky and lager alone, and then some of the old settlers sign the pledge in earnest. I will vouch for the welfare of the country. I do not suppose Clackamas county is any worse than the rest of the State, but I say fearlessly that the hardship of all hardships, the weight of all weights; the drawback of all drawbacks in this community, is the habit of drinking and drunkenness. Perhaps you think I am somewhat fanatical but it is to me a truth and I will say it if I live a hundred years and never get an office.

A word to A. W. Steers about China labor: Last Spring I gave a contract to some white men of grubbing. They worked for a short time and then threw up the job, and I plainly saw that if I depended upon white labor the grub would continue to grow, but the Chinese came to my assistance and my ground is now cleared and I anticipate cutting a crop next year. The wages they made was but little over 60 cents a day. He further states that there are 150,000 Chinese on the coast. If he will look at the Scientific American of Dec. 27th, on page 413, he will find it stated that there are but 62,000 now on the coast. This body must be mistaken; and in regard to that portion of their wages that is lost to us; it is as well earned as the money was I paid them, it is not badly lost. T. B.

While purchasing fruit trees do not forget that the trees sold by the railroad nursery are warranted true to name.

VETERINARY.

Blind Stagers.

Editor Willamette Farmer: Having received a letter from a reader of the FARMER asking for information regarding the blind staggers, I would say, that in my opinion it is purely a nervous disease, produced by some poisonous substance existing in the feed; it acts by paralyzing the stomach and congesting the brain. Symptoms are drowsiness, sluggishness at work and frequently falling asleep; appetite pretty good, which produces an over distention of the already torpid stomach. This state of things may continue several days, followed by an imperfect control of the limbs, causing the horse to sway in walking; the drowsiness in time gives place to restlessness, muscular twitching, springing or dashing violently about, convulsions, etc. Treatment consists in stopping ingestion of the poison; brisk cathartic, with some sedative, are the proper remedies; for a cathartic give one ounce powder alone, one ounce powder ginger and half dram podophyllin, mix and give in half pint of warm water, about six hours after giving the physio give four drams of bromide of potassium in a little water, repeat with two doses every six hours, until the patient becomes quiet, then give tonic, such as gentian conchoidal tea, feed on bran mash, or give linseed tea; in dry weather turn on green grass, or Fall grass. JAMES WHITCOMB, V. S.

Cure for Bad Times.

Editor Willamette Farmer: I have noticed several communications from "Lorain," and in all, without any exception, he talks of hard times and advocates economy. In his article of January 2d he says that it costs us on an average \$25 per head for tobacco and \$35 for beverage or whisky, as well as a few dollars for tea. This may all be, but what of that? "Lorain," I am surprised to think you complain of such small items and contribute it all to making hard times in Clackamas county. Let me tell you, we, the people up here in Marion county, use all these articles, besides paying a tax of 21 mills on the dollar to support two officers, namely: Clerk and Sheriff; the former at an expense of \$5,500, the latter \$4,500, or at the rates of \$10,000 per year, and if to be nice, say \$833 per month. Now, "Lorain," I cannot conceive why you complain of hard times! Do not go so far from home and I think you will find other causes than those you speak of. Should you not sell out and move to Marion county, where the people are all happy? It may be true our land does not produce 40 or 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, as of old, but we have an offset to this a mortgage on at least one-fourth of our land to compensate us our loss. This, together with the satisfaction of high taxes and good fat offices, a so-called temple of justice, costing us \$140,000, standing as a monument of extravagance, why should we not be happy, if you are not! Like charity, let us begin at home, reduce all the expenses to minimum, pay every man in office or out of office a just compensation for his labor, not more nor less, and should the law be to the contrary, change it, and in order to do this elect so many to office that does not stand pledged to such a reform, let him be Democrat, Republican, Greenbacker or any other man. Let this be the watchword for 1880 of every laboring man in Oregon. When this is done, with true economy at home, we can remedy all evils, and till then we cannot expect any change for the better. A GRANGER. SILVERTON, January 6, 1880.

Good Sense in This.

Editor Willamette Farmer: You mention that there ought to be some legislation to make money matters easy for the farmers. Now all or the only way I can see is to sell more and buy less. You may write all the editorials you may, no person is going to furnish funds if there is nothing to give in return. The only way to legislate for the debtor class is to make a law that debt cannot be collected, as it is the principal as well as interest that smart farmers. Now I do not care whether you publish this only to give the opinion of a constant reader of the FARMER. THOMAS JONES. Forks of the Santiam.

[We advocate a lower rate of interest, but have said nothing about any legislation to make money matters (otherwise) easier for the farmers. We oppose extortionate monopoly and excessive usury.]

Answer This.

Did you ever know any person to be ill, without mention of the stomach, liver or kidneys, or did you ever know one who was well which either was obstructed or inactive; and did you ever know or hear of any case of the kind that Hop Bitters would not cure? Ask your neighbor this question—Times.