

# VOL. XII.

#### TO OUR READERS.

We have lost many thousand dollars by the czedił sytsem, and must do business hereafter on a cash basis. We were hurned out last Spring and since

then have passed through very hard times. The majority of our subscriptions expire during the Fall and in January, and we ask our friends to be as prompt as possible in making renewals.

We are sending out notices of expirations, and if any mistake has occured please in-form us so that we can make necessary cor-

### THE COLD SPRING COUNTRY

A Full and Complete Description of a Newly Developed Section of Country in Umatilla County.

HELIX, Umatilla Co., Or., Dec. 5, '80. Editor Willamette Farmer:

In that portion of Umatilla county where the State boundary line ranning west intersects the Columbia river, is a scope of country of which but comparatively little is known, but which is, nevertheless, susceptible of the highest degree of agricultural development, and which is even now emerging from the state of an upproductive bunch-grass prairie, and rapidly attaining its natural pre-eminence as one of the most extensive wheat fields of Oregon's Great Inland Empire.

The county in question is on the Columbia river side of a prairie which runs between and parallel with that stream and the Blue mountains; or, to be more exact, it may be describportion immediately adjoining the river, conportion immediately adjaining the river, con-sists of a magnificent rolling prairie, produc-ing a wonderfully lexuriant growth of bunch grass and totally devoid of sage brush, with a fine black-loam soil which is peculiarly adapted for the production of the cereals, vegeta-Walla Walla, who own the whole of a section ed for the production of the cereals, vegeta-bles and fraits common to the great wheat raising belt of the Northwest interior. Hith-erto, this fine piece of country has been util-ized only as a cattle and sheep range, for which, indeed, it is admirably adapted, and which, indeed, it is admirably adapted, and men, who wished to monopolize the range for themselves, their heirs, executors and assigns forever, in misrepresenting it as a region of nothing but sand and sage-brush, in order to nothing but sand and sage-brush, in order to The Cold Spring is much the largest of the becoming settled, appreciated and developed as its merits and great advantages as an agricultural district deserves. Of late, however, that is to say in the last three years, as the Umatilla Valley, or Greasewood side of the prairie fronting the Blue mountains, became settled and converted by the untiring hand of industry into a great grain producing district, the hardy land-seekers were compelled to locate higher and higher, till at last the Greasewood Flat was left far behind, the summit of the prairie was reached, settled and cultivated, and then for a time the process of development ceased. This state of things, however, could not exist forever, for as time things, nowever, could not exist forever, for as time progressed a few ranchers hunting their stray tesins, penetrated into the Columbia river side of the prairie, and instead of finding a re-gion of sage-brush and sand, as it had been grossly misrepresented to be, they found themgrossly misrepresented to be, they found them-selves traversing a vast wilderness of fertile prairie where the bunch grass was rank and knee high in its wonderful luxuriance, and watered by an infinitely greater number of living springs, which makes it not only a much more fortile and botter country for cultivation is a second to be the second more tertile and better country for cultivation and agricultural development, but is also, by reason of its contiguity to the great highway of commerce, the Columbia river, which brings it so much nearer to market, a much more desirable locality for settlement than the Grease wood side of the prairie which faces the Blue

over, and which excludes the narrow strip of sage-brush and sand which immediately ad-joins the great river of the West, the unpre-possessing appearance of which has deterred so many from prospecting the interior. In addition to the great advantages it enjoys from its commanding geographical position, which gives it twenty-five miles of water front which rare three steamboat landings and a line of railroad already constructed ranning paral-lel thereto, the Cold Spring country rejoices in the possession of three distinct natural out-lets, which, because it is a more imposing term than gulches, are dignified by the name of canyous, which, with their forks and trib-utaries all head acar each other on the sum-mit of the prairie, and thence radiating toward utaries all head hear each other on the sum-mit of the prairie, and thence radiating toward the Columbia river and pursuing a general northerly course, they intersect and drain the whole of this scope of country, thus affording it easy natural roadways to the three steam-boat landings and railroad depots on its water front.

front. front. The names of these gulches are the Van-sycle, Juniper and Cold Spring canyous. Of these Vansycle is the most easterly, which heads on the summit of the Columbia rive ide of the prairie, a short distance from the head of the Big Greasewood canyon on the Blue mountain side, and thence pursues a The great number of springs on the prairie northerly course for a distance of eighteen has been before alluded to, but of course there miles when it effects a junction with the Walla Walla river two miles above Wallula; in this canyon are two fine springs, but the courry to the eastward, in the direction of the Walls Walls with the large portions where water can only be obtained by sinking. The depths of wells vary fr in fifteen to forty-five feet, depending upon the depth of the soil, the rale being the direction of the soil of th Columbia river it terminates in the basaltic table lands which border that stream. We-tward of Vansyele, towards Juniper, the soil is richer and the country much less broken. tains; or, to be more exact, it may be describ-as the northern boundaries of Umatilla coun-ty, of which that part of the Columbia river, lying between Umatilla Landing and the State boundary line is at once the base and the water front. The general name for the which sole at m. Emrinds, river, for an average distance of lifeen miles, the for an average distance of fifteen miles, the with their new locations and who are here to whole of which, with the exception of that stay. In the course of another year or two these men will have the'r places in such good

joining rouch on the summit of the prairie, at a still greater height above water, are several shocks of corn raised thereon, that can be seen for miles, which, when viewed from adistance looks like a great camp of Indian ledges. The head of the Cold Spring prairie is fifteen miles distant from Glassford's Saw Mill on Wild

leaves an immense amount of drift wood on its banks, so that settlers can make their own rails and ceslar posts, and secure firewood by the exercise of their own labor.

Valla Walla river two miles above Wallula; othia cauyon are two line springs, but the soun ry to the eastward, in the direction of the Walla Walla Valley is the least desirable for settlement, for in addition to its being hadly broken up, the soil is more or lass im-pregnated with alkah and down towards the Columbia river it terminates in the basaltie of the prairie attained a depth of 77 and 85 feet respectively before water was struck, 60 feet of which was sunk through the fine black loam which comprises the soil of the prairie. As a matter of course a soil of that depth is incepable of exhaustion, and when to this is added the fact that the cultivation of timber notice the fact that the cultivation of timber on timber culture claims is successfully car-ried on, growing in fact spontaneously, with-out any attention at all, some idea of the won-durful, come difference of the won-durful, come difference of the won-durful, come difference of the won-therefrom. It may be as well to state the fact that the Pendleton millers authorize the batteneous that the best wheat they have re-batteneous that the state and the state the state state with the atten-batteneous the state stat statement that the best wheat they have re-ceived this year was grown on the Cold Spring prairie, which is doubtless attributable to the fact that this prairie possesses a northern instead of a southern aspect, and, therefore, the stead of a southern aspect, and, therefore, the soil is the better enabled to retain maisture than if it were exposed to the full glare of the midsummer suo. In this the Cold Spring country greatly resembles the topographical features of the Umatil'a Indian reservation, for this fine tract of land is green in the early for this given the surrounding merical large Spring when the surrounding prairie is have and brown. The philosophy of this remarka-ble feature lies in the fact before narrated,

over, and which excludes the narrow strip of and which in addition to the prospect of the the construction of railroads. No portion of the construction of rancoads. No portion of the upper country is making more progressive strides than that in the three counties named. Its transition from the State of a savage fron-tier to an eurnest and progressive civilization is complete, and the grand work of developing is dormant resources has commenced. The i s dormant resources has commenced. The finite mind of man is incapable of comprehending the reachty empire which will be established here when its varied and practically un imed here when its varied and practically unim-ited resources are utilized to their fullest ex-tent. Its regress has not been in this decade, but in the last quarter of this decade. Vast sums of flowey from the world's great mone-tary certics are being concentrated here to facilitate the development of its resources and therefore, new comer making homes here now at such a favorable time, will not have towait for a very long period to reap the fruits of their labor and enterprise, for the good time coming is already here, and an immediate recoming is already here, and an immediate re-ward awaits the pioneer and the "carpet-bag-Horse creek, and rails can be bought at any point in the Blue mountains for \$2 per hun-dred, while the Columbia river at high water property or the convent fiscal year over pre-

property for the current fiscal year over pre-ceding vibrations is more than half a million dollars, while, containing the vote cast at the late Presidential election with the vote for

bat the erroneous Webfoot idea that the agri-caltural lands of the upper country consist of a pot-hole here and there. like the Walla Walla Valley. Many of the older settlers here have not yet begun to realize the future greatness of the upper country. A practical

greatness of the upper country. A practical knowledge of its resources is required to do so, and the subject must be studied to appre-ciate it in all its magnitude. It might be fair to ridicule the idea of the Willamette tenant farmers laboring to make other men rich, when only two hundred miles distant is good land waiting to be taken up, but we refrain from ridicule, for this portion of the hundred mess region needs no ficitions

grazing ground for the scrub ponies of a few idle, non-self-supporting Siwashes, and, moreing particular details to suit individual tastes should address the undersigned at Helix, Umatilla county, Oregon, who will be happy to rendy to anch correspondence. With no to reply to such correspondence. With no object in view other than to promote the setlement of this prairie with that desirable class of practical farmers who read the leading agricultural journal of the Pacific Coast, the writer has endeavored to show the country ust as it is, confident that the more narration of positive facts relating to the fecundity of its location and surroundings, will settle up and develope the resources of the country more permanently than if the truth were em-bellished with the 'high falutin'' language of Here, then, is room for fully three hundred bellished with the inters. professional word painters. A. F. PARKER.

#### MORE ABOUT GRASSES.

## Hon. John Minto writes a Valuable Letter e this Subject-Timothy the best Hay Grass-Mesquite, Alfalfa, and other Grasser, Sested. SALEM, Or., Dec. 12, 1880.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

reiteration of previously published views and experiences to some extent.

experiences to some extent. As a single hay grass on suitable land there is not yet in cultivation a more valuable grass than timethy. It does well on all kinds of sod in locations inclined to dampness, and on such locations might be added to the grasses in laying down land for pastures for a course of years. On dry unlands such as the Red hill hands

On dry uplands such as the Red hill lands State and county officers in June hast, the in-crease to its population is phenomenal. So rapid has been its progress in all the material interest which make prosperity, that an effect was mapping in the lately adjourned State Legis way and in every place a better grass than was made in the lately adjourned State Legis latine of livide the territory comprised in the boundaries of Umatilla into three counties. It is in the rapidly growing commy that the Cold Sping prairie is located. The odd acc-tions to freed are included in a Government grant to the Northern Pacific boundaries are that the grant will revert to the Government eventually, but even if it should not, the policy of the Northern Pacific Company has been so fiberal (disposing of the hands in its Pen d'Oreille Division at Govern-ment price), that it is asfe to assume that this indecessful policy will be continued when these hands are placed on their immediate cul-tions and continued to the market. There is, however, no drawbask to their immediate culmistake may be almost a misfortune to the grazing interests of this coast. I just here have to say that I have sudied this velvet grass protty closely since about a year ago. My remarks upon of the acar between the contributerable correspondence in the states coast of the Rocky mountains in regard to it. My studies le d me to these results:

First, Dampness either in the atmosphere or in the soil is an essential condition for this grass thriving well. Second, As either a hay or pasture plant, under the most favorable conditions, it will

carcely rank as second rate in quality. Third, On dry soil under a dry atmosphere

it is not even third ra e rate in any respect. Fourth, For making grass on damp or

Fourth, For making grass on damp or swampy, pearly lands its second only to redrop. Fifth, it is valuable as a pioneer grass on rough ranges having a moist atmosphere. For the purpose of quickly changing grain land to pasture my estimate of perenial ryc grass accords with the estimate of S. G. Reed. It is easy to get "a catch" and for heavy, rich wheat lands is a good grass, and I think rich in feeding properties. In seeding down such land for pasture rice g ass, timothy, red and added, but on high, dry land orchard grass

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spread grazing region notes how the range is deteriorating without feeling t at unless some pasture, plant is found, capable of taking hold. of that naturally rich seel, and maintaining itsolf against close feeding under a bright aut-shine and dry cold atmosphere, it is only a question of time when that country and much there to the East and South of it, will became what we once generally though it to be A DESERT.

grasses in last weeks FARMER, and as the theme is one of the most important to farmers and stock-raisers, I will try to give what I know on the subject, though at the cost of ican line, there are, amongst the innam-erable rich and native grasses growing there,

manent means of invention, the octer is win be for all interests connected with that coun-try. This article has become extended and yet I have not touched upon what may be done with known gras as in Eastern Oregon. i may, however, return to that subject at some future time. Jours Misro,

## Fine Stock in Wasco County. The Dalles Inland Empire.

The fine stock mentioned by us as on th way hither from Kentucky, in charge of S J. Newsome of Prieville, arrived here safely Our expectations of a fine horse were realized in Marshall, the splendid son of the unrivalled Almont whose fame as a sire of trotters is an wide spr ad as that of old Bonnie Scotland among runners. He is a horse of good size and grand proportions. The n-arest thing to him is McAlister's Dead Shot, and there is but little to choose between them either in point of size and blood like finish. So far as

Grande of size and blood into more in the size of the his white high heet and the narrow strip down his intelligent and good natured face. He is over 15 hands, 31 inches high, weighing about 1,130 pounds and possessed of the greatest liberty of action. His head is large, like all the rest of the Almonts, but clean and bony, and well set upon a long and muscular neck. His shoulder rakes back like the mars of a pilotheat with the mithes of a fore miles. His shoulder rakes back like the max's of a pilotboat, with the withers of a four-miler. The barrel is round and deep, with vert breathing power, while the arched loin shows nature's skill in bridge building. Nothing could surpass his driving apparatus, the broad strifle and fiat thigh being well let into a clean and durable hock which will never curb. His fore leg appears light at the first glance, but the second glance undeceives you. It is his enermous muscular arm that does it. Taking him altorether, he is about as infect and for pasture rise g ass. timothy, red and white clover, narrow leaved plantain—rib-grass—and velvet, might be all mixed with advantage, and even orchard grass might be that occupied by the weaning colt owned by this coast He is a wiry youngstest and may yet astonish the natives. The union of the Hambletonian and American Star blood in his sire, produced a record 2:20 in harnes and 2:23 birs, produced a record 2:20 in harnes and 2:23 to wagon. Newsome has certainly outdone himself, as well as a'l other importers, in the matter of jacks, one of which he sold to thomas Burgess, of Bakcoven, on private terms within twelve hours after his arrival at this place. The balance of the stock were driven out house on Theorem balance are this place. The balance of the stock were driven out home on Thursday last and are now thoroughly domesticated in their Oregon

Hence it will be seen that the country un-Hence it will be seen that the country un-der consideration has received no advertising; that it has been kept idle by misrepresenta-tion, and that its locality, bordering on the greatest river of the Pacific Coast, with the O. R. & N. Co.'s line of tailroad traversing it along the full length of its water front, and surrounded as it is by the high civilization of Walla twenty five nulse and the set greatest river of the Pacific Coast, with the O. R. & N. Co.'s line of nailroad traversing it along the full length of its water front, and surrounded as it is by the high civilization of Walla Walla twenty-five miles on the east, and by that of Weston and Centerville tweive miles to the westward and Pendleton tweive

mntains.

discourage intending settlers from prospecting it for themselves, which has prevented it from length, heads a little to the southward of the over, there are on the reservation many hun-dreds of acres of alkali and adobe land which would involve the expenditure of large sums of money to render them productive. The length, heads a little to the southward of the sources of Juniper and Vansycle; the middle fork seventeen miles long, heads still further south, while the south fork has its origin in the vicinage of Pendleton, and after running of money to render them productive. The soil of the Cold Spring country throughout its whole length and breadth is totally free from those ingredients, and being so much nearer to market, it is decidedly the most desirable locality of the two sections for all who desire to make themselves permanent homes in the bunch-grass country.

Columbia river and then loses itself in the big sand flat at the Umatilla Wells. The head of land seekers to come and locate themselves the North Fork of Cold Springs has of late settled up very fast, so much so that a school district (No. 59) has been organized and the school already running. On the south fork of this canyon is a large ranch embracing each 320 acres, or a half section of good land, where n they can build up homes for their families. Situated two hundred miles east from Portland, twenty-five miles west from the great inland metropolis of Walla Walla, and with the three town of Weston, Center-ville and Pendleton only twelve miles distant, twenty-five hundred acres, known as the Margin Farm, owned by I. T. Reese & Co., of Weston, of which eight hundred acres are and possessing twenty-five miles water front, with three steamboat landings, and the trunk under cultivation in one body. To the north and west of this ranch is the Morehouse, or line of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company's railroad already completed on the Columbia river, and with another road already surveyed running through its center into the Grande Ronde Valley, the Cold Spring and west of this ranch is the Morehouse, or the great Umatilla wheat farm which was lo-cated last year by John R. Foster and Lee Morehouse, of Umatilla, associated with a company of Portland capitalists. This farm Grande Ronde Valley, the Cold Spring country in Umatilla county offers inducements comprises seven sections, or nearly five thou-and acres in one body, with three thousand to the land-hungry which can nowhere be equaled, much less excelled, in the whole of the upper country, for its altitude is lower, its acres already under cultivation. Another school section on Juniper canyon is owned by Captain Gorman, of Walla Walla.

It must not be inferred from the foregoing that all the land here is taken up, for these great farms, originally located for experimen tal purposes, comprise only a fractional and by no means the best portion of this large ex-

by found a few feet below hedrock. Over two hundred locations have been made on this prairie since March last by men with families from all parts of the Union, all of whom are delighted with the advantages of their new bomes. The heads of these families realize the great advantages of being so near railroad and river transportation and are enthusiastic over their location are being of the solution of Weil by no means the output. The Umatilla farm, for instance, adjoins and in places embraces a part of the desert zone of sand and sage-brush which in that particular locality overover their location so near to the city of Walla Walla. Looking at this section of the upper leaps its usually contracted limits on the banks of the Columbia and extends back from country from a geographical point of view, the northeastern portion of Umatilla county, which includes the Cold Spring prairie, may be justly termed as forming a part of the fam-ous Walla Walla Valley, from which, indeed, it is only divided by the State boundary line. By referring to a man of the country it will be Walla Walla twenty-five miles on the east, and by that of Weston and Centerville twelve miles to the westward and Pendleton twelve miles to the southward, and with a soil un-orqualed in the Northwest for fertility and productiveness, makes it the most desirable locality for settlement in the great interior. Strictly speaking, the Cold Spring country extends from Umatilla Landing on the west, beyond the State boundary line to Wallula, in Washington Territory, on the east; hence it may be correctly stated to embrace a tract of land containing twenty-five miles of longiit is only divided by the State boundary line. By referring to a map of the country it will be seen that the counties of Walla Walla and Columbia in Washington Territory, and Umatilla county in this State are included in natural boundaries, which comprise the Blue mountains, and the Snake and Columbia rivers. The interests of this scope of country are identical, for the character of the people, the soil, climate and products are alike. The country in question bears the same geograph-ical relation to the Pacific Coast which the of land containing twenty-five miles of longi-trails by fifteen miles of latitude, which com-prises fully four townships of as good gov-ernment and railroad land as ever a crow flew

Where to Locate. ARDSPIE, Kansas, Nov. 7, 1880.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I enclose you one dollar for your paper the FARMER, which send as long as the dollar lasts. As I am going to more to Oregon with my family in the Spring, I don't wish to send more money than will be necessary to pay up to the time I leave here, as I am going by wagon. I went out to Oregon last Spring and looked over the Willamette Valley, and believe I would do letter there than here. Where would be the best place to go to, where no ague or fever prevails, and where fish are plenty and fruit fails not? Would you recommend South, North, East or West? I have a small income of \$400 per year besides the FARMER which send as long as the climate is more equable and water is invaria-bly found a few feet below bedrock. Over have a small income of \$400 per year besides the labor of myself and family. Answer in paper.

Yours truly, WILLIAM LINTON.

The foregoing is pretty fully answered by the description of the Willamette Valley we published last week. When Mr. Linton arrives here we shall be glad to furnish any information possible to serve his purpose. Here is a them to take up the subject of thorough ex-man who has been here to look for himself perimental test of all the known varieties of and likes the country well enough to bring in all sections, but we shall treat more fully

should have the first place in the mixtare In regard to alfalia or laceras on the dry hill lands or damp ciay land, of this valley, I have never seen it succeed, but on the rich aluviums of the Willamette river I have had it grow as high as my head. On such soils it would be a bette soiling crop than clover even and 1 have no doubt be a go d crop for doirymen on the lower Willamette and Coldoirymen on the lower Willamette and Col-umbia river alluviums. It is the only plant that our Agricultural College teachers have found to keep green through our Summer season, keeping as green at mid-Summer as it is in May. "In good rich loam it grows five feet high and it will stand several mowings during one season. The folder is of good quality for stock." So says B. I. Hawthorne in his report to President Arnold, (see pp 9, Biennial Report of State Agricultural Col ege, 1880.) Mr. Hawthorne goes on to say : "Provision is made for extensive experiments with grosses during the next year." For which, if they are thoroughly made and the results extensively published the farmers of Western Oregon will have cause to thank the faculty of the College. But, Mr. Editor, why has this most impor-tant subject not been taken up by every State

tant subject not been taken up by every State Agricultural College? Why is it necessary, so long after these institutions were so liberally provided for by sommificent government to have practical farmers call on each other for information in relation to the nature and quality of grasses, as your correspondents have done relative to the "soft meadow velvet grasses" of the Englands, old and new, or wild "measure country of the second s vild "mesquite grass" of Texas, whichever t may be? In view of the importance of the interests which a supply of grass underlies, I venture the suggestion that the agricultural press of the country West of the Ohio river in in a demand on the Commissioner of Agriculture, that,

First, He put himself into official communication with the Agricultural Colleges askirg

valuable grasses. Second, That he send wide-awake, reliable and likes the country well enough to bring he family. With the income he speaks of he ought to succeed well if they are good work. ers. Good land can be bought in any direc-tion, and a little care will secure a good bar-gain. Near the mountains all the streams have trout. We published last week, or will this, an article on fish and game. The big Salmon are in the larger streams; Elk are in the mountains and deer in the hills and tim-ber. Pheasants, grouse and quails are the game birds of our country. Fruit does well in all sections, but we shall treat more fully Eastern Oregon, Washington, Idaho and in favor of wheat raised in Eaker county. We functional without apprehension perhaps. As it is, no man, who has an interest in that wide- and act accordingly.

#### Grain Growing in Baker County

Baker county contains Powder river valley, juite elevated and frosty, but good for tock in Winter and can also grow vegetables and cereally provincy and pre a mined to, at least so think's the Editor of the Baker City Revielle. Mining interests take the lead in that county; but the Editor of that paper says: Our merchants tell us that more than half of the obur contained by the inhabitants of Baker county is manufactured in Grand Roads Baker county is manufactured in Grand Honde valley. They tell us that many of our farmers, instead of elling wheat, actually buy four manufactured in that Valley. Now all this is good for our Grand R-und neighbors, but rather hard for Raker county. From data which we have gathered we are of the opinion that Baker county pays to Union county not less than \$50,000 per annum for wheat and flour alone; while we sell them nothing or next to nothing. The balance'of trade is next to nothing. The balance's of trade in against us, and is impoverializing us and en-riching our neighbors. From fact which we have derived from Mr. Chambers there is real-ly no necessary for this State of things what-ever. He says that our farmers should sow their wheat in the Fall of the year, and not in the Soring as the other that and the source of the says that our farmers should sow their wheat in the Fall of the year, and not in the Spring as is the custom. He says that wheat sown in the Spring is not near as good as that sown in the Fall: we mean that the berry is not as full and good, and that it does not produce as good flour besides, it is not