

good enough to almost constitute a county of itself. Some time in the near future a railroad will go up this hidden valley to cross the mountains. A wagon road will soon be constructed for a cattle trail is already made. This region will be a favorite summer resort for the future, and it is very probable it contains some of the wonderful medicinal springs that are abundant among the mountains in Oregon.

We have described one single feature of this foot-hill region, with which we happen to be acquainted, and the valley beyond it, hidden away among towering ranges, as a specimen of the lands that surround the Willamette Valley on every side, and the smaller valleys that nestle among the ranges. The time will come when immigration will push in and occupy all these lands, and when we recollect that they border on a truly civilized and highly cultivated community, and are, after all, not far from market, the question arises, if there is not great inducement to occupy them now. The people who seem to appreciate them the best are German and Scandinavians. These foot-hill benches and valleys are free to pre-empt a homestead, where not already settled upon, and where they fall within the railroad grant are offered for sale at reasonable price and very easy terms, as we have stated. It is doubtless true that a great extent of country that is classed as mountainous, will be found well worth settlement, reclamation and cultivation. The piece of land we described so accurately we purchased of the railroad company, which probably has many locations of equal value for sale. The same is no doubt true of the land grant on the line of the Northern Pacific railroad from Kalama on the Columbia to Tacoma on Puget Sound.

#### CATTLE IN OREGON.

##### Historical Sketch and Account of the Cattle Business at the Present Time.

BY THOMAS CROSS, OF SALEM.

[Mr. Cross has been a famous cattle breeder and stock raiser in his time, and we give his views with pleasure, but he certainly cannot be correct in his assertion that cattle breeders East of the Mountains buy no improved stock. We have friends there who own great herds and take great care to improve them. But Mr. Cross' statement may be, and no doubt is true of the great mass of stock men. It is true, as he says, that the cattle are decreasing in number and the range is deteriorating also. As the bunch grass is eaten down more and gets shorter, cattle find it difficult to feed where both horses and sheep do well. Also, when hard winters come, horses and sheep paw away the snow and do well where cattle will die. This wrought a gradual change in the business of stock raising; herds of horses and sheep increase and cattle are driven off in immense bands to Eastern buyers and, no doubt, it is true, that the droves that amounted to 150,000 head in 1880 will never be equalled again. Also, it is true that stock men have kept to themselves in the past the existence of immense bodies of agricultural lands, like the Cold Spring country, in Umatilla county, which cannot be longer kept for stock range, but is being rapidly settled and turned over by the plow. The plow has and will invade the whole bunch grass region, and stock must leave. Wherever bunch grass grows wheat will do as well, and while stock raising will always be a great business, and a great area of country can be utilized in no other way, practical agriculture will supersede stock raising as fast as the rapidly constructing railroads bring available lands within reach of market.]

SALEM, Ogn., Dec. 24, 1880.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In answer to your request, I will try and give you the early history of the importations of blooded cattle into this State. James Watson, late of King's Valley, Benton county, brought across the plains a very few fine ones in 1847, purchased from James Brown, of Sangamon county, Ill. Mr. King also brought in a few good ones about the same time, living in the same county and valley. In '52 Gov. John P. Gaines imported quite a number of very good Durhams from Kentucky, amongst them some first premium animals. About this time a very good bull was brought in Lane county, called "Duke," and was purchased by Mr. Cogswell; he proved himself a fine breeder. About this time a good Shorthorn cow was brought across the plains into Lane county and purchased by Hon. Mr. Wilkins, which proved to be a good acquisition to his herd. Also, about '52, Mr. John Welch and the Hon. R. C. Geer imported the celebrated thoroughbred cow "Nymph," and shortly thereafter imported the far-famed and celebrated young bull, "Grand Admiral," by ship around Cape Horn, and have the honor of making the first importation by water. Mr. Welch purchased him from Mr. Samuel Thorn, Duchesne county, New York, and I believe Mr. Thorn's herd was the best in the world. Also, Messrs. Sol King and Moses Wright, of Benton county, imported a number of fine animals and of good blood, about thirty head of cows, heifers and bulls, and they proved themselves all that could be desired.

I think the next importation was by myself, the bull "Illinois" and the heifer "Bellchiana," around the cape. I purchased them from T. H. Spears, of Menard, county, Ill. Then comes the importation of W. S. Ladd and S. G. Reed, of quite a number of as fine bred animals as I ever looked upon. A man of experience and judgment would ask no questions as to where to do better than with these. Probably the last importation was by Col. Younger & Son, from California. Their herd received much comment from the press, and were much admired and very highly spoken of by those seeing them, and they show that Col. Younger understood his business. They were in the best of show order, but if I am any judge, there was only one cow in the lot that was a show animal. Some of the red heifers seemed to be badly inbred. I remarked to Mr. Younger, Jr., when he was currying one of these heifers, "Sir, you cannot recommend her very highly." He replied, "She was young and would fill out." I made the remark purposely to give him to understand that there were men in Oregon who could point out the faulty parts. Now it is not my object to run down any man's stock, but I deem it my duty to give my views as to the best cattle, so that those wishing to purchase can start aright, as there are some unprincipled breeders that "have got just what you want," and sometimes big sales are also nothing but a ruse, a blind, a sell.

Now let us see what this little Oregon Weh-foot has done. After giving you a description of my manner of breeding, I will give you some actual weights—no sham, no buncombe. I found when I was East that some of their premium cattle were heavier than ours, and at the same time ours out-measured them. I refer to the Chicago Stock Journal and Fat Stock Show, also the Smithfield Market, in London; we are equal and, I think, a little ahead of them, but it will be seen by my breeding that I combined as good blood as was aging.

In 1847 I purchased from Mr. Watson four good cows, and each season some of his best heifer calves. I had them from every good cow he had. I then prevailed upon Gov. Gaines to take some of his best cows to the Lane county bull, "Duke," referred to above, and from one of them I purchased from the governor a bull calf. I bred him until I needed a change. I then purchased from Mr. Geer the imported bull, "Grand Admiral." About that time I purchased from Messrs. King & Wright four of their best imported cows; then, to couple upon "Grand Admiral's" heifers, I imported "Illinois." So you see, I had all the earliest importations combined, as I also purchased a young bull from imported "Nymph" and "Admiral."

I will now give you the weight of some steers raised and fattened: The "Oregon Baby" weighed 3,080 lbs at seven years old; the four first years he ran in the herd, on native grass; I then took him up and commenced feeding him; the second year he gained 350 pounds; the third year only 50 pounds. I then shipped him to San Francisco and showed him at the Sacramento State Fair and sold him in San Francisco for \$900; he was a grade steer. I put up and fed with him a beautiful four-year old steer, but perceiving that he was done growing, I sold him for a Christmas beef in Salem; he weighed on the scale 2,100 lbs, and weighed, net, 1,428 lbs; now this is making a little over 68 per cent. beef to 100 gross, and I find that the premium cattle in Chicago only made 67 and a fraction. I also sold a Christmas beef to A. H. Johnson, Portland, four years old, weight on scales, 2,100; dressed weight, 1,400. And I shipped to Victoria fifty head of as fine steers as I ever looked upon; I drove them to Portland and shipped them by boat to Monticello; from there I drove to Olympia, and then by ship to Victoria. Their average net weight was 1,000 lbs; five of them netting 1,400 lbs each. Now, sir, had these cattle been housed and fed as they are in the Eastern States, they would have been much better. I see by the papers that our cattle are highly spoken of in Chicago, and when East of the Mountains last Summer I was pleased to see upon the range such improvement in cattle from bulls of my stock. But I am afraid that the range is failing, and it is my opinion that there will be a scarcity of cattle ere long, as the supply is rapidly diminishing and consumption increasing. You ask who are the principal breeders or stockmen? My opinion is that there is not a practical breeder or cattle raiser in this State or even Washington Territory but Ladd and Reed, and they do not get the encouragement they deserve. Cattle business is going like the pork business, only we cannot ship beef from the East, but I venture that those raising cattle in a short time will get well paid. There are large herds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, but I cannot learn of any who are purchasing improved bulls. They reply, when asked about not doing it, "Our neighbors will get the good of them," and cattle thus neglected will fast go to ruin. You ask, what improvement is being made? The general average of cattle is not near as good as fifteen years ago. You ask what it costs per head to raise them? This is hard to answer. It depends upon the value of the lands they are kept upon; but I will say this, it costs much less here than in Illinois, for here they are not affected with heat and cold, and are perfectly healthy, and I venture the assertion that if

farmers in this valley were to sow one-third of their land down to grass and pasture a few cattle and sheep, they would make more money than by raising all wheat. Mr. Editor, I am glad you called upon me for this article, for it is quite encouraging to find that we are fully equal in weights to cattle East and in England. I only find one steer in the Smithfield Market in London heavier than "Oregon Baby," also one in Chicago; and my other steers made one pound more than theirs on 100 lbs gross; this shows good blood and cattle highly improved. I would like if you would call upon some one East of the Mountains and let us know the actual facts about the cattle business there, as to how they come out in collecting and raising, and to what extent the grass is failing. I deem it of the greatest importance to watch and keep up the cattle supply and not get too far behind; or, in other words, when prices are good have none to sell. It will be observed that I have omitted some importations. I did not think them worth mentioning, as the importer, Peter Saxe, was not a reliable man. One animal he had, I challenged his blood, and he replied "he had the best of pedigree," pulled it out and I stopped him, and he remarked, "What do you call him?" and after giving him my views and opinions he frankly admitted that I was correct, and said, "Mr. Cross, they are making that cross in Kentucky, and you have the stock on your farm to make it with, and can make it profitable." But I admit that he brought a few good ones; "Hannibal," purchased by Mr. Myers, of Polk county, is a good one; Elisha McDaniels got a good one also, but I do not hesitate to say that his pedigree was unreliable. Had he dealt in first-class stock and been honorable, he could have done well, but his rope was too long, and, as the old adage is, it hung him. I will answer friend Minto's article on grasses at my earliest convenience, as great men will differ.

#### REPLY OF THOMAS CROSS TO HON. JOHN MINTO'S ARTICLE UPON GRASSES.

In the first place Mr. Minto says orchard grass is superior to velvet grass for hay is his experience, but does not tell us what experience he has had. I have tried each and differ with him very materially both as to hay and pasture, but do not like either of them for hay. He admits it is good upon mountain fern and mountain ranges, also admits it keeps green under a greater degree of frost but thinks there is a mistake about its being called "Texas Mesquite." Let us now consider that C. P. Burkhardt of Albany sent to Texas and got some mesquite grass. He gave some to S. G. Reed where I saw it growing and believe it the same identical grass as the velvet; and further, I was at Mr. Patterson's, in Polk county, and he gave me a pint of seed. He said a friend of his brought it from Texas. I sowed it by the side of my velvet grass and it was the same. I could discover no difference. Now, Mr. Editor, I think comes the serious mistake of Mr. Minto; he says he cannot but believe there is a mistake in calling this soft meadow or velvet grass mesquite, and placing its nativity in the dry plains of Western Texas, and indicates why the mistake may be almost a misfortune to the grazing interests of this coast, and further says, he has studied this grass closely since about a year ago and that his remarks about its character led him into a considerable correspondence in this State, with people East of the mountains, and his studies gave him the following result: 1st. Dampness in the soil was an essential condition for its thriving well; 2nd. Either as a hay or pasture plant under most favorable circumstances it will scarcely rank as second rate in any respect; 3rd. On dry soil, under a dry atmosphere, it is not even third rate in any respect; 4th. For making grass on damp or swamp lands it is second only to red top.

Mr. Editor, I will here give my reasons for having answered Mr. Minto's remarks. In the first place, we differ in every respect upon this grass, and we have both been East of the mountains during last year, 1880. I give it as my opinion, to those living there, that the velvet grass would grow and do well amongst their bunch grass, and have sent to Messrs. Chapman & Dunlap, and Eldo Brothers, some seed for them to try. I will briefly give my experience: I sowed it first about twelve years ago upon brush and red-hill land, with orchard grass and others, and the orchard grass is now done and the velvet is yet a fine stand. Last spring, in March, it was an excellent pasture. I have nearly one hundred acres in and have ploughed up some pasture. I next sowed it in a wet bottom, and, as Mr. Minto says, it likes damp land. For an experiment I sowed some in thick buck-brush and it took well and is now a foot high and the brush is so thick the stock cannot get to it. Mr. Minto is well aware they have it upon the Clatsop plains, and that it is the only grass upon these dry, sandy plains that will mature and make hay. I have said it will carry more stock than any other grass; I will give a little proof. I sowed twenty-five acres near my stock barn two years ago, and last spring it carried 300 ewes that I had up lambing, to my astonishment. After taking them

off I mowed it, and about Aug. 1st, I took from my band of sheep, 160 buck lambs and put in same field; as it had made rapid growth they thrived finely upon it, and about the first of October I took them off as I wanted it to grow up and get good for my spring lambing, but being away from home it proved too late to take off my lambs. I now have fifty young lambs, and I took out some of my late ewe lambs, making the number eighty, and they are now upon the same twenty-five acres. I put them in the barn at night and feed them the velvet hay; there is a slight sprinkle of clover in it, however, and they are doing as well as sheep can do. The lambs are fat and I think it grows nearly as fast as they eat it; it is a very gravelly piece of ground. I am still seeding and expect to sow 100 acres this season, Texas mesquite, or velvet, or meadow grass, or what any one may please to call it, it is my pet grass; I am satisfied it cannot be equalled. The Hon. F. R. Smith, living one mile south of Salem, has tried it a number of years from seed I gave him, and he is well pleased with it. I saw an article in some paper this season, from some gentleman living in Yakima, saying he had five hundred acres and it had done well there.

I find my article is getting too lengthy and in conclusion I say to all interested: give it a trial. I will send seed to any one wishing to try it to seed one acre, by them sending stamps to pay for sack and mailing, with instructions to sow, and if you like it you can get enough seed from it to seed a big farm. I have tried nearly all grasses and it and the English blue grass are my grasses, but understand me I do not recommend it for hay. I am sorry to differ with my friend, John Minto for he is an old-time friend one I esteem highly, he is candid and honest in all he says, but, did I know nothing of this grass, after reading his article I should not try it, and in my mind I should be a great loser, for it is very common for great men to differ. I forgot to mention that some say that their stock do not like it. I have studied that and probably they let it grow too big, as it vines and lying upon the ground it rots, and of course will in that case give an unpleasant smell, but I have had no stock refuse it. I have had it in my garden where it was not cut off and was so thick on the ground that the under grass was all rotten—it wants pasturage very close.

THOMAS CROSS.

#### Value of Eastern Wheat.

A subscriber of the FARMER writes from East of the mountains to say that he consigned his wheat to a house in this city that reported sales at \$1.30 a cental. We of course cannot say what the wheat was worth without knowing its quality and the date upon which it was put upon the market. So much Eastern wheat was blighted by the hot weather and failed to fill well that it grades No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, and the price named would be sufficient, say on the middle of November, for a poor article, but if it was really good Eastern wheat we do not think that \$1.30 has been a fair price for it for six months past. The house named by our friend has a high reputation for all mercantile excellencies.

#### The Case Dropped.

Detroit Free Press.

Not even a lawyer, however skill in cross examination, can make a witness tell the truth, provided the witness wishes to evade it. It is impossible to put a question in such exact language that it will demand the desired answer. Indeed, nothing is more true than the statement of Talleyrand, that language is intended to cover up one's thoughts, and no one ever practiced the principle contained in the statement more than Talleyrand himself. It was necessary on a certain occasion in court to compel a witness to testify as to the way in which a Mr. Smith treated his horse.

"Well, sir," said the lawyer, in a sweet and winning smile—a smile intended to drown all suspicion as to ulterior purposes—how does Mr. Smith generally ride a horse?"

The witness looked up innocently, and replied:

"Generally a straddle, sir, I believe."

The lawyer asked again:

"But, sir, what gait does he ride?"

The imperturbable witness answered:

"He never rides any gait at all, sir; but I've seen the boys ride every gait on the farm."

The lawyer saw that he was on the track of a Tartar and his next question was very insinuating.

"How does Mr. Smith ride when he is in company with others? I demand a clear answer."

"Well, sir," said the witness: "he keeps up with the rest, if his horse is able to, or if not, he falls behind."

The lawyer was by this time almost beside himself, and asked, "And how does he ride when he is alone?"

"I don't know," was the reply; "I was never with him when he was alone," and there the case dropped.