



LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Letter From Umatilla County.

MIDWAY, Or., March 13, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Having seen an article in your issue of March 4th, headed "A Sorry Story from Michigan," thought I would make a few remarks in answer to it. We did not have three feet of snow here, on the first day of February. The first of February, was a pleasant day; we never, or very seldom, have such crops of potatoes as Mr. Coffield says he raised last year. My father raised 300 bushels of good potatoes on less than three-fourths of an acre of bunch grass soil. Almost all the Government and swamp lands in Western Oregon are taken. There is a great deal of land in Eastern Oregon that is vacant, most of all of which is good farming land. Eastern Oregon is most all covered with bunch grass; it has heretofore been run by stock men, but is being taken up for the purpose of farming. We raise most any thing that has been tested in Oregon. It is a good country for fruit and vegetables.

ANNIE R. FARRENS.

Mr. William Taylor writes from Marion county, East of Salem, under date of March 9th: "Every thing looks splendid here in the Waldo Hills; grain and grass are growing fine; some of our neighbors have put in early garden. We had to sell our wheat at a low price but think too much of the FARMER to do without it. Our little folks are pleased with the Home Circle. I close, wishing the FARMER success and long life."

TYOH VALLEY, Or., March 8, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Would you be so kind as to inform me where a good early variety of sorghum seed could be obtained, that has been grown here in Oregon and acclimated. I would like to plant some this year; I think it can be grown here to good advantage. By so doing you will confer a favor on a subscriber.

D. F. MUNCER.

[Perhaps some of our readers can answer the above, we cannot. It is probable that application to those who grow sorghum in Jackson county will secure a favorable answer.—EDITOR.]

J. P. Taylor, writing from Cottage Grove, asks why sheep are allowed to die for want of food East of the mountains, when wheat is so cheap and a little of it will do so well to keep them alive, but he forgets that wheat is scarcely ever grown on sheep ranges. Alluding to Lorraine's theory on honey dew, that it is the excrement of insects, he says: "In Southwestern Missouri the prairie grass, especially on late burns in a dry fall, would be saturated with honey dew and several drops could be stripped off a blade of grass with the thumb and finger, which was thought to be produced by the drying of the grass. A healthy swarm of bees would fill their hive and build as much underneath it." He also thinks we should export pork instead of wheat, as the hogs could harvest the grain, often on rough stumpy ground, and if artichokes are of account they could help make pork. Mr. Taylor promises to send me an account of his success with Kentucky blue grass among the fern on the Calipsoa mountains, and believes we shall yet have our blue grass pastures in Oregon. We hope to hear from him on this matter as the pasture grass question is of prime importance to this country.

J. W. Wilson writes from Curry county: "We have had a mild winter; haven't lost a hoof of stock of any kind and now have some cattle that are good beef that have run out all winter, so we are happy without a break-water at Port Orford."

A subscriber writes from Olympia: "Your request for your dues received, but I have not the money to spare just yet, as times are dull, but please send on the paper, for as a family we cannot do without it."

[We shall send it on, and are glad to accommodate good people who require a little delay, but certainly the most of our subscribers can raise the small sum due us punctually, and delays are very dangerous to us because there is little profit in the business and we have to pay cash every week ourselves, for all we get. When subscribers don't pay we get into terrible straits.—Ed.]

Letter From Kansas.

FRANKFORT, Kas., Feb. 24, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Enclosed please find \$1.25 for the FARMER, and will you please send it to my address for the time the amount pays for. I accidentally got a copy of your paper with the Umpqua farmers' resolutions in it. They have the right ring in them; good, pure metal to fight the diabolical monopolies, and I hope you may conquer and prosper. Your people should start Anti-Monopoly Leagues, which are destined to be the great lever to pry the castles

of the money and monopoly power from their foundations. The men of best ring to their names are in it, such as L. E. Chittenden, of New York City, one of the original fore-founders of the old free soil parties, who is President. There are many good, progressive men in Kansas, who would become citizens of your young State, could they be assured that the all-grasping monopolies which hold California in their dead grasp, more unyielding than the grave, would not do, ere long, the same in your state. Many of us will come and see at all hazards, as we think you have the right location for future greatness and prosperity. Give us some light on this subject. Many think lands good for anything are all gobbled up by your landsharks. A few remarks on the subject will be acceptable.

J. WEINBACH.

[NOTE.—So far we cannot complain that we suffer from monopoly. Western Oregon has considerable competition for transportation, and the great corporation which is constructing roads to develop the country East of the Cascades has recently made a reduction of the freight tariff that is expected to stimulate production. As for land monopoly, we hear nothing of its evils, except in a small degree, for speculation has never taken the form of land monopoly with us, as has unfortunately been the case in California and elsewhere. People at the East will find this a good country to come to and to stay with.]

About Chickens.

McMINNVILLE, March 6, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I am very thankful for the attention that my query, in regard to my chickens, has received. I will say to those who have responded and wish more particulars, that my chickens run at large, mostly in the orchard; that they are fed morning and evening on cracked wheat, corn, scraps from the table, and very frequently they have a warm breakfast of middlings or chop mixed up with milk or water and well seasoned with pepper; I keep a dish of burned bones by them all the time, and the soil they run on is a red soil with soft gravel and rock and is on high land. I will admit that their shelter is not near so comfortable as I would like to have it, and is not very well ventilated. I received a private card from a physician of Heppner, stating that the main symptoms were those of Trichina or Pork Worm. Very respectfully,

Mrs. B. F. SPARKS.

Cocoanut and Chocolate Cake.

Editor Home Circle:

One of your lady readers asked for a receipt for making cocoanut and chocolate cake. I send some that I know to be good.

Two eggs, one cup sugar, one half cup of milk, two tablespoonfuls melted butter, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, and one heaping cupful of flour. This is good for any kind of cake baked in layers.

For cocoanut cake, use the whites of two eggs beaten stiff, one half cup of prepared cocoanut; sweeten and flavor to taste. For chocolate cake take one cup of sweet cream, flavor with lemon or vanilla, sweeten to taste, grate into it three tablespoonfuls of chocolate, and when it boils stir into it one tablespoonful of corn starch dissolved in a little milk. Omitting the chocolate in this, it makes nice filling for cream cake; put the cake together while warm.

Will some one give directions for making a salad out of a dish of cold potatoes, cabbage, etc., or any other kind of a good plain salad, and dressing for the same.

Mrs. S. F. B.

Defective Reminiscences.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In the FARMER of March 4th, I read an interesting article entitled "Early Days," being the recollection of Mr. John Piper, relative to the early fruit trade of California. Mr. Piper is quoted as saying, "the first box of apples was shipped to San Francisco from Oregon in 1833 from the ranch of Lewis Allen and Mr. Meade, in the vicinity of Portland, the owners having crossed the plains in 1846, and having brought fruit trees with them."

If Mr. Piper is no nearer correct in his date than in the name he gives to the man who brought the nursery across the plains in a wagon (and I am inclined to think he is not), Mr. Alfred Luelling might give you more correct reminiscence of name and dates.

Of course it may be that Luelling has been transmogrified into Lewis Allen, and Meek easily changed into Meade, but all the same injustice has been done to an honest Welshman, a pioneer of pioneers. I am inclined to think Mr. Piper is out a couple of years in regard to the first sending of apples from Oregon to California. I know that Mr. Luelling had trees bearing as early as 1850, from grafts he brought across the plains in

1847. There were, however, apple trees in bearing in the Willamette valley before Mr. Luelling came to Oregon. There were some on the farms of Mr. Joseph Gervais and Mr. Ladarot that looked like they might have been 10 to 15 year old in 1845, and in 1844 I eat very fair seedling apples, the product of the orchard at Fort Vancouver. Mr. Gervais sold apples at Salem in 1849. His farm was 12 miles below Salem. J. M.

Answer to Inquiries.

Mr. Jno. E. Porchet writes from Greeley, Kansas, and in answer we say: A good, fair team of farm horses can be had for \$150 to \$200, and as much more as one pleases; wagon and harness will cost \$125 to \$200; cooking stove \$20 to \$35. A family coming here would go to San Francisco and take a steamer there for Portland. To go overland from Utah would not be cheap or easy. Stone cutters get good wages here, and as Portland grows rapidly it is probable work will be found here in good season of the year. There is plenty of good stone, but brick is used for superstructure. This is not a country to starve in if a man is willing to work.

Ohio Correspondence.

LEONARDSBURG, OHIO, Feb. 14, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

It was the 8th of November that snow first fell in quite surprising quantities, and on the 14th following that old Boreas buttoned his icy overcoat on the inhabitants of this section, and for three long, doleful months we have listened to the tintinnulation of the bells, and sleighing par excellence has been ours.

Nine-tenths of the people had no corn husked when forced to go into winter quarters. The weather was extremely cold, and low degrees were often seen. For a time, every day brought its quota of snow. Last Wednesday the weather moderated, and there were evident signs of rain. It did rain, and freshets and high water marks of previous years were totally eclipsed. The snow went to swell the tide, and swollen and maddened streams carried ruin and devastation with them. Bridges supposed to be permanent were ruined, and from the effects of the ice many mills were left not worth a dam, and roads were destroyed.

The gale of the 12th inst. and the snow which accompanied it seemed as if the thing had been sent on purpose. There is no mistake but what this winter has been something to remember. If you could see the wheat fields along the streams, covered with ice and drift, you would see a poor chance for operating a self-binder next harvest without the removal of some stuff now on deposit. A good many Buckeyes are ripe for transplanting in some more genial climate, but scarce one tells where, since the severity of the winter extended to the Southern States, even as far South as Florida.

In brief, we have seen the elephant, and now, whilst I write, the wind is whistling with fiendish shrieks around the place I am wont to call my domicile. "But it is vain to extenuate."

I remain, as ever, JOHN WATKINS.

Patent Bee Hive.

OREGON CITY, Or., March 21, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In your issue of March 11th, Mr. Emmet Smith wants to know where he can get a patent bee hive. He does not say why he wants a patent bee hive. There are quite a number of hives that are recommended by the leading bee keepers of the United States. Friend Smith cannot do better than to use the Long-stroke hive. You do not want anything better. You can control swarming, you can manage your bees with ease, and you can get just as much honey as with a patent hive, and last, but not least, they are as easily made as any hive in the land. I have given directions how to make them in the WILLAMETTE FARMER. Hoping these few lines will satisfy Mr. Smith not to be humbugged, and I have accomplished the end sought.

LORAINE.

The Assessment Law.

MOUNT PLEASANT, March 12, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The County Assessor was at my house the other day and I soon found out that I was not posted with regard to the manner of giving in my assessable property, and he said that many others were in the same fix. As your paper has an extensive circulation in this county, I would suggest that you would publish an article on that subject, as I believe it would be beneficial for all interested.

Yours, B. H. L. IRVINE.

ANSWER.—Our editorial on the new assessment law, published March 11th, was intended to give all information needed on this subject, and if our friend will refer to it he will find the amended law published in it.

Firs and Skins.

There being sharp competition for above articles, at good prices, the undersigned believes that he can do well by those who consign their stocks to him for sale.

J. B. KNAPP, Portland.

A VALUABLE PAPER ABOUT VARIETIES OF WHEAT.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In your issue of the 18th I notice an experiment made by Judge Wait of the yields of several different varieties of wheat as follows: Molda, white Velvet, Defiance, Clawson, white Winter, and Chester headed, also the same test with different varieties of oats. These experiments prove exactly what I have said in my former letters, that true agriculture and the best production of wheats is a science well worth learning, and has to be understood by practical observations. In this trial one ounce of seed of each were used; now, providing all the grains of the different kinds were of the same size and weight and planted at each varieties best adapted time, the experiment would have been a proper one, but as they vary in size, more in weight should have been used in seeding those that had the largest grains. For instance, it takes 804 grains of Molda, to make one ounce, while it only takes 500 of the Velvet; the grains being so much larger it is plain to be seen by any agriculturist that it gives the advantage to the Molda's variety, over the Velvet, of 244 grains, and in Judge Wait's test, this quantity of 244 should have been added to the Velvet to have made it equal with the Molda's. You see at once, there would have been that more quantity of stoolings in favor of the Velvet, which would probably have made the yield equal or even more than the Molda's. The result of the trial of the oats amounts to the same, while we see that the Hopeton, potato, surprise, and Scotch Gray, all fell short in the yield, the reason is that they are larger and heavier than the others, hence it takes less in number to make the ounce, therefore cannot be an equal test. Permit me now to say how I believe these experiments should be made with the wheat varieties of cereals; not that I want it understood that I have had more practical experience in these matters of cereals than others, I am pleased to see the interest that Judge Wait is taking in the different modes, and all of us may study the science of agriculture a life time, and yet there would be much to learn. I have never yet seen a drill that was any where near properly constructed for drilling wheat, and there is a great improvement yet to be made on that very machine before it will be perfected. In testing the different varieties of wheat there are some varieties that fill well and make fine wheat on cold wet soils, while I have others that will scarcely produce any grains at all on the same land, although they are much the best when put on dry soil; there are again some will not do well on rich soils where others will mature better; and again some will bear cultivating while other it would almost ruin. The time of seeding the different kinds makes a wonderful difference also in the yield and quality; for instance, those that are slow in growth and late to mature should be seeded early, while the vigorous ones would be ruined by such practice by going to an excess of straw. The proper quantity of seed to use per acre (and that is the best way to make such experiments) should be by actual measure, the quantity according to the size of the grain and its tillering capacity, length of straw, etc. For instance, I have one variety, very large grain, that I use two and one half bushels; that will yield from forty to sixty bushels; I have others that I use two and a peck, others that I use two, and some one and three pecks, and a few that one and a half is sufficient. This practice should be followed to make a fair trial or a success. Last Summer I tested eight varieties in the way above mentioned and there was only one that came up with the Velvet in yield, and it was very much inferior in quality. A few words on that subject: I have the Molda's Clawson and quantity of others, whites, ambers, and reds; too numerous to name, the Molda's is a fine variety and well worth raising, but I have a dozen others that are still finer in quality. I have just sent Mr. Tongue of Hillsboro, 32 samples, all white varieties and the whole are very fine, but after all my trials and experience on Fall varieties every thing considered I prefer the Velvet, I believe it excels all others in true merit. A few words on reds: I have many of them, and some are remarkably fine, much finer than the white Russian that some are so anxious to get them for seeding, and will not yield it, but I would not advise any one to grow any red or amber wheats at all. I have the white Russian as it is called, but really it should be named Russian amber or red Russian as there is no white about it. I am much surprised that farmers will tinker with it and other red varieties. If I had ten thousand bushels of it, or even if it was given to me, I would not seed a bushel of it. There is a big risk in selling or shipping any of the red varieties, and even if they could sell it would probably be at a discount as they are

always under price in the English markets, and I have never yet found any red variety that will yield equal with the whites or make as fine a quality of flour, neither will they receive them in the warehouse in this neighborhood and give a merchantable receipt. I was also conversing the other day, with a good miller as I believe there is in Oregon on the shipping of red wheats and of the quality of flour made from the same; he said he shipped twenty-four car loads of white wheat and in them were only twenty three sacks of red wheat and said when they arrived in Portland they found twenty two of them, and set them aside not receiving them. At another time a few more of them were found and treated the same way. After harvest as I was hauling in my white velvet to the warehouse, a neighbor had a little red wheat that he wanted to exchange for the velvet for seed; the warehouseman told him if it was over twenty bushels he would not take it into the warehouse. I also enquired of this miller if he could make as fine a quality of flour from the red varieties as from the whites; he replied he could not, that the bran of the reds would affect the color of the flour, and hoped the farmers would not raise any. There it is certainly a loss to the Government for distributing these seeds yearly to Oregon. In conclusion, with my past practical experience with over forty white popular named varieties of our own nation and others, I consider that the white velvet merits more good qualities for a Fall variety than any other.

GEORGE BELSHAW.

Letter from Lane County.

PLEASANT HILL, Or., March 12, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Not seeing anything from this section, and seeing many inquiries from persons in the Eastern States about this country, I thought something from this part might be interesting to some of your readers. This place is situated 125 or 130 miles above Portland, between the coast and middle forks of the Willamette river, in the upper part of the Willamette valley. We have pretty good market facilities, though not as good as farther down the valley, on account of the higher freights, but perhaps those disadvantages are balanced by the milder climate which we enjoy here. At one time this winter when the ground was frozen hard enough to bear up a wagon and team at Portland, we had but a slight freeze. We have had a very pleasant winter. The month of November was unusually cold and dry for this country, but since that time the weather has been mild and pleasant with plenty of rain. The grass has grown almost continually since the 1st of December, and is as good now as it often is in the middle or last of April. The ground has been barely covered with snow twice, but did not lay on more than a few hours. With the exception of the high water (and that was not as bad with us as farther down the valley) we have had a very pleasant winter. We are ten miles above Eugene City, the county seat of Lane county, three miles from the Oregon and California railroad, in an old settled country, with all the advantages of society, schools, etc.

There is no vacant land without going back in the foothills and mountains, and they are a little rougher than in some places, yet there are many localities where good homes can be made without being very far out of the way, and where stock can be raised to good advantage; besides, we are near the supposed line of the Scotch Company's Narrow Gauge railroad across the Cascade mountains, which, when complete, will open up a country through the mountains, where numerous homes can be made and where the lumbering interests can be carried on extensively, to supply the vast extent of country East of the mountains, where there is no timber. Improved lands are also much cheaper than they are lower down the valley; there are some places right in this neighborhood, improved, with good title, that could be bought very reasonable. Grain is raised to considerable extent; all kinds of grain and vegetables do well. I think this a very good place for a person with some means to look before locating, and besides other advantages it is very healthy, such a thing as ague is hardly ever known, fevers very rare, and diphtheria, which rages through almost all countries and sections, never trouble us here. Yours truly, S. M. SHELLEY.

Baker County Stockmen.

Stock men in Baker county have organized a society for mutual advantage, and adopted resolutions opposing branding of stock not known to belong to parties doing it, and favoring a judiciary committee whose duty it shall be to adjust all matters of ownership of stock between members. The society will proceed to further organize and adopt constitution and by-laws.

Letter from Canada.

BEVERLY, Feb. 25, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Having been favored with a copy of the WILLAMETTE FARMER, (by an immigration agent to whom I had written for information about Oregon) and being highly pleased with your paper; and also finding in it, as I supposed, that you had a farm for sale, and were probably something of a farmer, as I also am, I have taken the liberty of addressing you on topics connected with my business, in the event of my emigrating to your State. As I see from a list of the business and professional firms in Portland no veterinary surgeons are included, I would like to have your opinion about how a qualified veterinary surgeon would be likely to succeed. I send enclosed my card, and would add that the Montreal College requires all its graduates to attend a full course of three sessions, of six months each. I have no doubt but there are crack horse doctors in your midst, but please let me know if it is a fact that there are no properly qualified veterinary surgeons. I see no notice of Ayrshire cattle in your paper. Are there any in Oregon? If so, how do they take? If not, how do you think they would succeed near Portland? How stands the supply of Clydesdale stallions at present? Do you think that one could pay the expenses of a trip out to see Oregon on the profits to be made on a good, three fourth bred stud colt? Mr. John Redmond, whose name you mention among Clydesdale horse breeders, bought his best Clydesdale horse in my neighborhood. I see the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company's pamphlet praises Eastern Oregon highly, and gives a table which contains the moisture at The Dalles for four or five years in succession, which ranges from 20 to 30 inches; and also I see the rainfall at Umatilla for only one year, which does not amount to quite eight inches. Does the rainfall decrease the further East, or what do you understand to be average rainfall of Eastern Oregon?

The copy of the FARMER sent to me was dated December 17th. You promised it to describe the counties South of the Willamette valley more fully in a future issue. When you do so, please send me a copy containing it; also a few other copies which you would judge to be interesting to me, for which you will find enclosed the sum of one dollar. Hoping you will excuse the liberty I have taken, I am sincerely yours, JAMES FERRIS, Galt P. O., Ontario, Canada.

ANSWER.—In reply to the above we say that we know of a few competent veterinary surgeons here, but the field is a good one for competent men, the chief obstacle to success being that hitherto this region has known less horse diseases than are common at the East. Ayrshire cattle are only here in small numbers, and we hear very little about them. There are a number of first class Clydesdale stallions here and also Percherons, as well as half bred horses, and in all manner of horses, from thoroughbreds to heavy draft, our State excels. In horses Oregon stands A No. 1. Good horses are being imported all the time and evidently pay well for the venture. A good—actually good—horse is about the best property a man can bring here.

Rainfall East of the mountains does not decrease as one goes East, but naturally there would be more close to the Cascade range than in the interior, some years are drier than others, but no section is subject to constant drought.

Seymour, Sabin & Co.

This firm manufacture the MINNERS CHIEF THRESHER, which is one of the most popular machines used in Northwestern harvest fields and have been introduced here with success. They announce increase of their business this week, and have taken the store reaching through from Front to First street, 50x200 feet, on the South side of Malissa street, heretofore occupied by Newbury, Hawthorne & Co., and are now agents for the Morrison plows, formerly sold by that firm and also sell the Whitewater wagons.

Mr. J. M. Gross, who has represented Messrs Seymour, Sabin & Co. here, has also for sale at the old stand the stock of farm tools, machinery, etc., belonging to the estate of Newbury, Hawthorne & Co., which are offered for sale on very advantageous terms to close up the business of said firm, made necessary by the death, recently, of Dr. Hawthorne.

The Leading Photographer.

Of this city is Frank Abell. And in every sense of the word he deserves the title. During this pleasant weather excellent negatives can be taken, and, as a consequence, good photographs are the result.