

# WILLAMETTE FARMER

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## COLUMBIA RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I suppose it is of very little importance what an ordinary farmer thinks of the action, or non-action, of such a body as the United States Board of Engineers, but owing to the very close connection between the facilities for shipping into and out of the Columbia river and the measure of compensation for plowing the land of the Columbia river valley, the report of Major Gillespie to the Board of Engineers, and of the latter to the Secretary of War, and by him transmitted to the United States Senate, as published in the FARMER of March 18th are very important papers.

The report of Major Gillespie is clear in its statement and definite in its recommendations. He proposes, by the construction of a dike, to train the waters of the river (which for many years past have been widening in their outflow by wearing away the beach West and Southwest of Fort Stevens to such an extent as to threaten to wash away the fort itself) into a direction that will give security to the fort and depth to the channel recently cut through the middle sands near the center of the outflow of the river at present. In effect, the Major's proposition is to narrow the outflow by nearly two miles, and by consequence make permanent and deepen the present middle channel.

On the other hand, the Board of Engineers recommended leaving the mouth of the river to the unassisted operations of nature. The report is very obscure; but it is against action, and I confess, to my mind, against reason also, for it does seem to me reasonable that much can be done to deepen and fix the channel in the position (or nearly so) occupied by the single channel reported to exist by Admiral Vancouver in 1792.

Since that time, according to the history given us by the report, the movements of the outflow have been ever shifting with generally two rapidly changing channels across the bar. Recently Peacock spit, from the North side, and Clatsop spit, from the South side, have each been elongating (growing, so to speak,) towards the channel across the middle sands, and have, without doubt, been the cause of opening it. Major Gillespie proposes to assist the operations of Nature by placing a dike on Clatsop spit that shall make it higher and more solid, and thus prove more effective as an agency in deepening and preserving that middle channel.

The Board of Engineers object to this line of action because:

First, They think the opposed dike would not be of sufficient extent.

Second, That it might be in the way of some future improvement of the channels.

Third, Because natural causes, now at work, would succeed in making the desired breaches through the sand, or operate some other convulsion, entirely changing the present conditions of entrance before effectual progress could be made in the construction of a training wall.

The report then proceeds to intimate the wisdom of consolidating these middle sands, by the construction of solid work, to have the effect of dividing the outflow of the river into two channels, and concludes thus: "But the changes which appear now to be imminent, lead the Board to think that all constructions at this time would be premature, as it is likely that the benefit from natural causes, which will follow a change, may endure for years. Moreover, any plan which could be devised might probably interfere with the new courses of the channels supposed about to form, and even be impracticable under the new condition of things."

Mr. Editor, the report I have been quoting from shows that if Vancouver was correct there was one wide and well defined channel across the bar 80 years ago, which has, under the un molested operations of natural causes not been there since. We have then this to calculate on: That there are at least 80 chances against one for the natural causes making us a good channel, and as it may have been hundreds or thousands of years previous to 1792 before these causes formed that one channel there is poor encouragement for the rapidly increasing people whose interests are so closely connected with the improvement of the mouth of our great river to wait for the uncertain working of these causes to give relief.

Clatsop spit is only an elongation of Clatsop plains, which, as alluvium cast up by the combined action of the river and the sea, fills up the entrance to the river to the extent of about one third its width. This deposit of the current, the winds, and the waves, having been placed there, is removable by these same agencies, and during the short period of steam navigation into the Columbia, farms have been taken off of Clatsop point by the sea, combined with the shallow outflow of the river over Clatsop spit, which thereby widens

itself and consequently renders less necessary to the aggregate outflow, the deep channel, or channels, that our commercial interests require.

I am curious to know what the Board of Trade of Astoria and Portland are going to do in relation to that report. I'm only a granger, Mr. Editor, and may be ranked by the average commercial and military man as little more sensitive than a clod, but I confess that the reading of that report of the Board of Engineers telling the United States Senate in such hazy style "How not to do it," gives me some such sensation as I can imagine a warm hearted, earnest man, like Major Gillespie, would have, on being thrown into a snow bank to let natural causes cure him of his disposition to work with nature for the object he plainly says is necessary, and which he reasonably, I think, believes to be attainable.

JOHN MINTO.

## Bee Culture.

DAYTON, Or., March 18, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have been noticing for sometime articles in the FARMER on the subject of bee culture, and as this is a subject in which I take considerable delight, both for the pleasure and profit, these articles have been a source of interest to me. It is also bringing a subject before the farmer, in which he ought to be interested—that of raising his own sweets with but little time and expense. This item of expense is not a very small one to a large number of farmers, and the amount of money spent this way during one year would make them an apriary that would produce honey enough to supply a family year after year. I have been wondering for sometime if you would not be willing to devote a column to apiculture, if you could get enough who are interested in this subject to support it, and thereby make it a very interesting feature in your paper.

I see Emmet Smith, of Lafayette, asking after patent bee hives. I will say I use the Langstroth, with a simple upper story which I consider the best for several reasons, which I will not give at the present, as this will do for some future article. But I will say it is a movable frame hive, and there is no patent on it; and I would advise every person to examine this before adopting any other, because it is easily managed and gives good satisfaction. It is being largely adopted by the bee men of the East, because better results have been obtained from it than any other.

I would like to enquire if any one in Oregon has Italian bees for sale? and also if there is any one who is in the business of queen raising? If there is answer next week.

W. M. HADLEY.

NOTE.—We recognize the importance of bee culture, as of all departments of production which aid farmers, even if only to supply their own needs, and always give insertion to whatever our correspondents write about bee culture. The Langstroth hive has recently been described by another subscriber.

—EDITOR.

## Grange Lecture.

Eugene Guard.

Judge R. P. Boise, Master Oregon State Grange, delivered a lecture at the Court House Saturday, upon the Grange and other subjects that affect the farmer. The speaker expatiated upon the merits of the Grange; its social aspects, and the advantage to be gained by the farmers meeting together and freely discussing the best modes of farming, thus benefiting each other by giving their experience and knowledge derived from observation. Judge Boise adverted to the monopoly question that is forcing itself upon the laboring classes of the country by reason of the money kings buying up and controlling all competing railway lines and telegraph lines, thus leaving the country at their mercy. He advocated restrictive legislation, limiting their exertions to fair and just rates. The lecture was attentively listened to by a fair audience.

Meeting of Multnomah District Grange. Notice is hereby given that Multnomah District Pomona Grange No. 6 will convene at East Portland in the hall of Multnomah Grange No. 71, Saturday, April 17, at 10 o'clock A. M. Business of special importance to be transacted and a full attendance desired. J. J. JOHNSON, Secretary.

## A Valuable Horse.

We call the special attention of our readers to Mr. Imbrie's advertisement of his English Coach Horse, Robert Bruce. This is just the kind of stock we need for all work. He is neither too big nor too small, and he has all the qualities of bottom, strength and speed that go to make up just the kind of horses that farmers and teamsters want.

UNHAPPINESS is the child of Dyspepsia. Get rid of both parent and child by a few doses of King of the Blood. See advertisement.

## ALSIKE CLOVER.

COLLINS, Benton Co., Or., March 16, '81.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I am requested to answer a few more questions in regard to Alsike clover, through the columns of the WILLAMETTE FARMER, by Mr. G. W. Suabauer, of Washington county, Or.; Mr. J. F. Willmot, Clark county, W. T.; Mr. A. Buchanan, LaCenter, W. T., and others. I did not intend in the letter in the FARMER of February 9th to advertise Alsike clover seed for sale. The demands for it here are far in advance of the amount I have for sale. I think it can be obtained of any large seed dealer in the State at 40 cents per pound. The best time to sow Alsike is from the 1st of February to the 1st of May, and here on the coast it will do well sown in June. With buckwheat it does well sown on beaver dam lands, swamp and sandy bottoms; also on hill or fern lands. When sown on dry hill and fern lands it should be sown in the Fall, before the Fall rains. Burn off the fern and sow the seed at least 15 pounds to the acre; keep off all stock until the fern starts in the Spring, then pasture very close for a week or two; turn off the stock for two or three weeks and repeat as above.

Sheep, perhaps, are the best, as they tramp the ground evenly and hard. If you sow in the Spring and it is likely to be smothered out, turn in sheep enough to eat off every thing close to the ground, then turn off the sheep. The Alsike being of a very quick growth is quite likely to get the start of the weeds. If you have a piece of meadow land in other grasses which you wish to sow in Alsike, sow the Alsike seed thickly on it in Fall, or early Spring; in a few years it will all be Alsike. It is worth a trial on every kind of soil. If the soil is very dry and loose a good plan is to feed out the Alsike hay on the land in Winter; there is always enough seed to seed the land, and it is sure to make a fair crop the first year.

I have sown thirteen different kinds of clover; Alsike is the king of all. Alsike is not Alfalfa, neither is it a mammoth white clover; Alsike has a beautiful pink bloom, White clover a white bloom, Red clover a red bloom, Alfalfa a bluish purple bloom, of a pea shape; it does no good here in our climate. Alsike can be sown on oat or wheat stubble in the Fall, harrow in, if the land is very loose it is better not to plow unless it is well tramped by sheep. When sown on very rich land it should be pastured closely and late in the Spring, to prevent it from falling down.

Now a few questions: Are Italian bees better than the common bee, and in what respect are they better? Is there any one in the State that raises Italian queens for sale? As bees pay better than any other thing, we should try to get the best. My bees are the common black bees. I want the Italian if they are better than the common bee. I would like to hear from you all on this subject. Yours truly,

W. M. McWILLIS.

NOTE.—We hope any persons that have Italian bees for sale, or know where they can be had, will drop a postal card to Mr. McWILLIS, and give him the information he needs. We are very much obliged for his interesting statements relative to Alsike clover, which will interest many, and whatever pertains to grasses is of importance to Oregon farmers.—EDITOR.

"No Words in the English Language," writes a lady in Michigan, who is using the COMPOUND OXYGEN Treatment, "can express the gratitude I feel for the benefit I have received and the hope I have of possessing tolerably health again. It will be ten years January, 1880, since I was taken sick, and the mental agony alone has been indescribable. I have two little girls who have never seen me walk alone for that time. I have been so angry this Summer that I have scarcely been able to wait for meals. \* \* \* Every one remarks upon the improvement in my complexion, and I am putting on flesh rapidly. My bowels, which have been constipated all my life, and terribly so since my sickness, are now better than I have ever known them to be." Our Treatise on Compound Oxygen, its nature and action, and full information for use, sent free. DR. STARKET & PALLES, 1109 and 1111 Girard Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Ready Made Clothing for Ladies Can be had of J. B. Garrison, on Third Street, where he keeps a great variety of garments, which he sells very low. It seems hardly worth while for ladies who have but little leisure to do this monotonous sewing when garments can be bought here ready made at about the cost of the material to the consumer. Mr. Garrison buys the trimmings at wholesale and in this way can sell below retail cost material. He also has a fine assortment of REAL LACES and cheaper laces of the fashionable style; also all sorts of fancy goods.

SEND your friends in the East a copy of our mammoth extra edition; price 10 cents.

## Inquiries from Illinois.

BELVIDERE, Boone Co., Ill., Mar. 9, '81.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I have enclosed \$2.50, being, I think, the subscription price of the WILLAMETTE FARMER for one year. I have been wishing for an Oregon paper for some time, but did not know what papers there were in your State until I happened to see a copy of your paper which suited me well. I am thinking of moving with my family to some part of the Pacific slope, and take the liberty, as a subscriber to your paper, to ask you a few questions concerning the country around Portland. I am an Englishman and the hot Summers in Illinois do not suit me. I have a farm here and my desire is to move to your State and rent some land until I see how I like the country, etc., and then I can sell out here and make a home with you. Do you think I could rent an improved farm near Portland, whereon I could engage in the dairy business? How much per acre would I have to pay? What part of Oregon is the coolest in Summer? I would, of course, want to be in a good farming country, and near some city, as I would like to go into the dairy and market garden business. I have been in Illinois seven years, engaged in importing Berkshire hogs and Cotswold sheep from England. I have a large stock of the former now. Would it pay, do you think, to bring some of them to Oregon? I have been told that Oregon is pretty much covered with timber, that I would have to clear land before I could use it, how is that? What season of the year would a man be likely to rent a farm, in Spring or Fall? I presume the wheat is all sown in the Fall. What wages do farmers have to pay laborers by the month. I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken in thus trespassing on your valuable time, but by answering my numerous questions you will greatly oblige, yours very respectfully,

HENRY HEWER.

NOTE.—We have so many inquiries of this kind, and of all kinds, that we cannot reply to them by letter and so answer this through the FARMER.

Dairying, we believe, will become a very important and profitable business here and is already paying well when well attended to, as butter—choice roll—ranges from 20c in Summer to 40c in Winter.

Mr. Hewer's plan of coming here and renting a place is practicable, for there are always farms to be rented as well as sold, and we believe the time to buy land in Oregon is soon as possible, for this country is on a boom that will certainly raise the price of land. Whether he can easily rent an improved farm near Portland to suit him we cannot say, but one can be found near enough for all practical purposes, as he can sell by a commission merchant and railroads are in all directions.

Western Oregon is cooler in Summer and warmer in Winter than East of the mountains. We write this in March with windows open and beautiful weather. Our Summers show very few actually hot days, and we always have cool nights through the Summer, requiring a blanket to keep comfortable in July or August.

Berkshire pigs are here for sale and some people sell them to advantage, but generally stock importation—except as to horses and sheep—has not been a very profitable business.

The season to be here to rent a farm is late Summer or early Fall. The whole Willamette valley is good farming country. The land East of the mountains is open, clear of timber, in fact the want of timber near by is a fault, but mountains where timber abounds, are generally not very distant. Western Oregon and Washington Territory are well timbered regions, sometimes heavily wooded, with prairie reaches. The Willamette valley, 150x40 miles, is hill and prairie, interspersed with belts of timber, so is well wooded and watered. Whoever comes here can soon decide how and where to locate, but the man with moderate means can buy improved land in this valley and go to work immediately on good land and among a good people. He can do the same East of the mountains if he chooses to locate there.

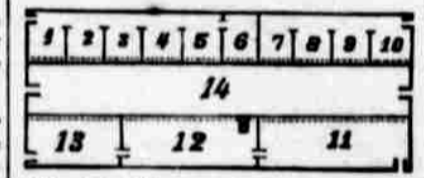
Wheat is not all sown in the Fall. Spring wheat frequently does better than Fall sown. Two years ago rust cost this valley a loss of two and a half millions of bushels of Spring sown wheat, otherwise than this instance there has been no serious failure of wheat crop in Oregon since its first settlement. Farmers are now busy plowing and sowing Spring wheat, and continue plowing and sowing on wet land, all through May, when the early season is too wet. There is probably no other country where wheat is sown so many months in the year as in Western Oregon.

The price of rented land will of course vary with the location and character of the land.

## SHELTER FOR STOCK.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The subject of dairying has been discussed through the columns of the FARMER, also the subject of sheltering stock, but nothing has been said about a good shelter. Now I propose to present a plan for a feed stable for horses, cows, calves, oxen, and sheep, if you should want to fatten either or both of the last named stock. The actual money outlay will not be very large, compared with the amount of hay that you will be compelled to feed in order that your stock will not get poor. By having a good warm house for your stock, you save just that much feed. If you think that it will be too much for you to finish the building the first year, then you can finish it the year following. By this means you will come in possession of a feed barn that you will wonder how you got along without. I will send a diagram of a feed barn:



The dotted lines are for racks. Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, are each 5x8, and designed for stabling the cows; No. 7, 8, 9 and 10 are also 5x8, and should be used to keep the horses in; No. 11 is 11x20, in which to keep the sheep; No. 12 is 11x18, used for fattening stock; No. 13 is 11x12, and in here you can put your calves after weaning; No. 14 is a hallway, 8x50, running the entire length of the barn and can be used for cutting feed and storing agricultural implements.

The size of the barn is 30x50 feet. The posts are 8x8 and 18 feet long; girts 6x8 inches. Second floor 9 feet above first. Leave a space in the floor just over the racks so that you can feed all your stock hay while you are in the mow. The doors, etc., are shown in the diagram.

—LORRAINE.

## A Small Cow Stable.

A friend writes: A good way to make a small, cheap cow stable is to lay down wood or plank 10x10 feet each way, and scatter a little straw on every evening. Then leave the manure until you wish to haul it out. Have a door on the South side and leave it open, unless in very cold weather. Feed a little bran mixed with water, with hay or straw. Doing this I find my cows give lots of milk in Winter.

## Letter From Missouri.

HICKMAN'S MILL, Feb. 20, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

We get the WILLAMETTE FARMER every week, just two weeks after it leaves your city, and like it very much as a farming paper. Geographically speaking Jackson county is situated near the center of the United States; has a greater elevation than any point East of Pike's peak, and has a population of more than one hundred thousand energetic, go ahead people. Kansas City, the metropolis of Western Missouri, is situated in the North West corner of our county, and is a great commercial center and the best market in the West for grain and live stock. It can boast of having the two largest pork and beef packing houses in the world, having packed this Winter near one half million hogs. This city, to our view, bids fair to be one of the greatest manufacturing cities in the West.

As a farming country this cannot be beat any where; wheat yields from 20 to 35 bushels per acre, (I guess you can beat that) corn 50 to 80 bushels, oats 40 to 75 bushels; we also have some of the finest herds of Short-Horn cattle to be found any where, also some Alderneys and Herefords, and sheep that can't be beat. Several of the leading stockmen have formed a joint stock association and their annual sales are very good. Well, a few words about the weather and we are done; we had extremely cold and dry and cold weather up to February 1st, the thermometer sometimes reaching 20 degrees below zero; then it turned warm and gave us a three inch rain which raised the river; after that a two foot snow, which drifted in the lanes so as to make them impassable. Yours truly,

FLOWBOY.

AN Amity correspondent writes to the Riverside Press: Mr. A. M. Waddle, of Reed's farm, is plowing brush land where the hazels, seven feet high, are plowed down at the rate of three acres per day. Mr. W. says these hazels are as much as four years old, and he uses a Champion Moline brush plow. There is quite a large settlement of the Society of Friends in the vicinity of Newberg, Yamhill county, there being two hundred members of the church. The Narrow Gauge is being built through that country with all dispatch.

## MILLING.

Produce Exchange Bulletin.

The importance of the flour trade in this country is becoming more apparent every day. The time was when the export of this commodity ranked as equal to one-half the shipment of wheat or very nearly so; but while the latter has quadrupled during the last decade, flour has not been more than doubled in quantity. How flour has not kept pace with wheat in the demand for foreign ports, we are unable to explain.

But with the beginning of this year a change has set in, and it is by no means unlikely that by the close of 1881 the export of flour in barrels and sacks will be found mounting up to double that of 1880. Both in the London and Liverpool markets the inquiries for American flour has been numerous, and as a consequence the price has risen, while that of wheat has remained stationary, or very nearly so.

When we consider the facilities possessed by American producers for sending the manufactured article to the market instead of the raw material, it will appear strange how flour has not been more in request than it has latterly been. The cost of transferring flour from Minnesota, Illinois, or say Dakota, is much less than the equivalent in flour, and therefore there is no reason why the more valuable commodity should not be handled at the decreased cost. All things considered, flour can be sent from the West to New York, or to any of the other Atlantic ports of the United States, and transferred thence to Europe, South America, or any other market at a reduction of thirty per cent. on the sum which would be charged for the material required for a given number of loaves.

It will be readily admitted that American millers have all along been considerably ahead of the millers of Europe in producing a superior for the market. Americans, if they are notable for any superiority over other nationalities, in any one thing, it is in their labor saving machines. The deputation of millers which recently visited this country from England, showed by the very fact of their coming here that they expected to learn something; and if we admit—as there is no reason why we should not—that they carried away with them many ideas which they could apply to the improvement of their machinery on their return home, by the time that they could get their adaptations made our millers will be as far in advance of them as they were before.

No doubt the milling interests of the Old World have good reasons for complaining of their American brethren fishing in their preserved waters. They can hardly be expected to look with complacency on a movement which in the course of its development can not fail to have the effect of depriving them of their means of livelihood. In this they are entitled to our sympathy, just as the old country farmers are; but with all this kindness of feeling and sincere sympathy, we must never forget that business is business. No inventor can produce labor-saving implement, thereby doing good to the world, without at the same time crossing some one's path, and depriving wives and children of their bread. Yet such is life; it is the way of the world; and the sooner the dusty millers of Old England make up their minds to conform to a new state of things, the better for themselves.

But it may well be doubted if the western producers are quite free agents in the manufacture of wheat into flour. They are themselves now being subjected to a severe competition with the farmers of the whole world, and unless they exert themselves to the very utmost they may find themselves behind in the race. Where the land carriage is so great, a reduction of thirty per cent. would tell most materially in their favor, and we therefore consider that it would be most beneficial to them to give more attention to the subject of milling than it has for some years received. No expedient should be left untried to improve the process employed, and every valuable invention should be utilized to the utmost. Any way, as we have stated above, we hope to see flour from this country make a much more larger show in European markets than it has hitherto done, and we have no doubt that the enterprise of our producers in this branch of business will meet with its merited reward.

## Your Mind will Grow Strong

and great not by what you reject, but by what you cordially accept and believe. Your health will improve, just in proportion as you obey Nature's laws. If your mind is diseased refresh it with suitable relaxation. If the two great organs of your body, the kidney and liver, are out of order, restore them by using Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure. The mind can be kept clear, and the kidneys and liver by the great remedy above mentioned.

## 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.