



WHEAT, AND THE OUTLOOK.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Aug. 27, 1881. Editor Willamette Farmer:

There is at present a great interest awakened and much said in the papers and out of them, about the results to follow the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the O. R. & N. Co.'s roads and the branches and feeders of the same, by the influx of population and the capital that will then find investment in the lands and mines and timber and other resources of this State and adjoining Territories. This is all right so far as it goes. But of what use is it to increase the facilities for bringing the products of country to Portland or Astoria under the present aspects of our market?

The United States and the Canadas, so far as agricultural products are concerned, must be sellers and not buyers for generations, if not for all time to come. And our buyers must be found across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, with but very limited exceptions. So far as wheat, pork, beef and dairy products are involved, Europe must be the main market, and it is 150 days distant. And right here is imbedded the great difficulty. Our wheat for the past year has lain along our river and railroad store houses, and a drug at from 45 to 70 cents a bushel, while in New York at the same time it has ranged from \$1.20 to \$1.30 a bushel.

What makes this wide difference? One says, "lack of tonnage on the Pacific Coast." This is true only in part. Time and distance are the factors upon which this question rests. New York is twelve to fifteen days from Liverpool, Portland 150 days, and no increase of tonnage in American or foreign bottoms would shorten this time a single day. The remedy lies in a ship canal across that little narrow isthmus of Darien.

The making of such a canal, as compared with its importance, dwindles into utter insignificance. Its cost is estimated at from one hundred million dollars to four hundred millions of dollars, and what is that in these days of bonanza kings and railroad syndicates? With an isthmus ship canal, Portland or Astoria wheat could be landed in Liverpool in about 35 days, and its higher grade of quality would largely help make up the difference in the additional freight from the longer distance. At present about the only farm product that can be sent from Oregon is wheat. But with a canal, beef, mutton, pork, poultry, dairy products, fruit, lumber, fish, etc. And a sale of these commodities are vital to the development of any country that produces them. Oregon and contiguous Territories will make their development very slowly on the single article of wheat, and that at the past year's prices, which may occur more frequently in the future than in the past.

Bring England within thirty-five or forty days of Portland and the value of every acre of good wheat land is enhanced twenty-five, or more, per cent, and every locomotive and railroad car on the coast, and every dollar of active, invested capital are enhanced a proportional amount, and at the same time it would be equivalent to increasing the tonnage carrying to and from this coast four fold. Build railroads through every valley in Oregon and carry their wheat to Portland gratis, and the farmers cannot afford to raise it at the prices that have ruled through the past twelve months. Twice before within the last ten years the accident of war and short crops across the ocean have only averted the same, if not lower prices. Is it safe for us to depend upon the short crops in Europe or the out break of war, the occurrence of famine, or hull in the carrying trade that will cause ships to be idle, to enhance the price of wheat to a bare living profit? This question has long been knocking at the farmers' door. And it comes with no less force to every other line of trade, for agriculture, must in the nature of things be the leading business in these parts, and whatever hinders or retards that must be quickly felt by all other business.

Something must be done. A Panama ship canal will never build itself. And about all our government has thus far done is to talk the matter over and affirm the "Monroe doctrine," simply for the reason that the necessities of the case seem never to have been understood. Were this matter fully represented to Congress by Senators and Representatives from Nevada, California, Oregon and Washington and Idaho, Congress no doubt would cheerfully aid in the matter, for why should it not? What other work could so largely benefit the nation? Even should the aid given, be a gift right out. But there is no necessity for this. Every dollar given could safely be paid back and the nation greatly benefited in material strength and foreign defense without one dollar cost in the end. "But why not depend upon the Losseps Canal now building?" Because all we hear from the enterprise is discouraging.

And then, this nation needs one of its own. And now I have given a hasty outline of this matter, showing in part, and only in part, its necessity and importance to agriculture. Cannot you, Mr. Editor, or some one else, suggest the initiatory steps necessary to move in the undertaking? W. L. CURTIS.

GENERAL NOTES.

Albany Herald: Wheat is worth 80 cents per bushel in this city.

Corvallis Gazette: Up to Monday morning last, Jas. A. Cuthorn had bought 5,000 bushels of wheat at 75 cents per bushel.

Last week Mr. David Milholland sold fifteen hundred bushels of his new crop of wheat for 75 cents per bushel.

W. A. Wells, of the mammoth warehouse, last Friday, bought 5,000 bushels of wheat, paying 75 cents per bushel therefor. This is the first large purchase of the season at the city.

The narrow gauge road has been built within about three miles of Judge Chenoweth's farm in King's valley; this improvement will no doubt aid considerably to the value and convenience of his place.

State Journal: An immense fire slashing on Mr. Howe's place near Creswell, and extending over 250 acres, will be burnt soon. It will furnish light and smoke for the whole country.

While Richards Bros. were threshing on the farm of A. G. Roberts, in Polk county, flames suddenly burst out just back of the cylinder, and in a flash the whole thing burned to the ground. The fire is supposed to have originated by friction caused by the machinery.

Joe Watt, of Amity, will secure about 6,000 bushels of wheat from 200 acres of land.

Dayton (W. T.) News: J. E. Edmiston & Co. have on hand orders for about 8,000 fruit boxes for fruit men on Dry creek. Another proof that money can be made by having such things done at Dayton.

Jacksonville Sentinel: J. B. Wisley is fixing up his evaporator, preparatory to making sorghum. The season has been very favorable to the growth of cane, and a good yield of sorghum is anticipated.

Grant Co. News: The cattle plague is raging on the Malheur and in the Harney country. Only young cattle die of it, and it is noticed that the mortality is greatest among sucking calves and such as are very fat. A post mortem examination of some that died of the plague showed the lungs to be apparently rotten.

Baker County Revueille: As the season advances, the number of immigrants passing through our city increases. Last Friday eight immigrant wagons passed through. They were principally from Nebraska, and had been three months on the road. The horses looked well, considering the long distance they have traveled. The immigrants were making for Watsburg, W. T., and those with whom we conversed seemed to be quite intelligent and well-to-do.

Baker County Revueille: Last Monday Main street was well filled at one time with immigrant wagons, all bound for Eastern Washington Territory. Some were from the Lone Star State, some from Kansas, some from Missouri, and some from Nebraska. Several of the wagons were drawn by one yoke of oxen, and they looked well and were in good spirits considering the long road they had traveled over. Many of the wagon boxes or beds were fixed "Mormon fashion," as it is used to be called. That is, a strip of board about eight or ten inches wide, projects over the wheels, thus making more room for the family.

Harney Valley Correspondence Grant Co. News: Mule raising is the most profitable business in this season, but as it requires a large capital to start with, there are but few following it. P. Mahon is the only one that is extensively engaged in the business at present, and his profits are so large that a number of cattle men contemplate giving up cattle to go to raising mules. Mahon has upwards of 200 mules ready for market that will bring, on an average, \$150 a head.

Falls City: While out at Springwater last week, we were shown a field of blue oats and took the pains to count the grains in a number of heads, and should estimate the average yield at about 175 grains to the head, although we counted up to as high as 190 and more in different heads and the grains were well filled and solid. The seeds (4 in number) were sent to Mr. Rand Stricklin four years ago, and now there are prolific fields being harvested all over that section.

Colfax Tribune: Harvesting has commenced in earnest in Spokane county. The clatter of the reaper and header, the heavy drone of the separator and rattling of harvest wagons, well laden, all go to tell of a rich harvest. The ripe, yellow wheat, the tall, waving oats and vast fields of other grains let only the bright smiles of satisfaction play on the faces

of our prosperous farmers. While only reports of famine and drouth come from many of our sister States in the West, we have plenty and to spare. The vast immigration and demand on the railroad furnish us with a ready market for our surplus crop at fair prices; the western part of our county is but thinly settled as yet, but what few settlers have gone in, taken up land and engaged in farming are more than satisfied—they are highly pleased. Their crops were mostly sowed later than ours, but they promise a generous yield.

Ashland Tidings: Welborn Beeson discovered this week that some bacon which he was using was infested with minute, white, semi-transparent bugs of a kind that he had never noticed in meat before. He brought some of the bacon to town, and with other persons, examined the little insects with a magnifying glass, but could not find anybody who could tell him the name and character of the insect. Some gentlemen said they had noticed the same little white bugs on bacon often, and thought they did not harm the meat.

Colfax Tribune: From all we are able to learn the grain crop of all the country, north of Snake river, will be fully equal to that of the Walla Walla country. Last year the wheat crop in some few localities about here was injured by frost. In Walla Walla it is killed by hot weather. And here are the principal drawbacks to Eastern Washington, some years' grain is injured by frosts and sometimes it is injured by hot weather, but never to our knowledge, has there been a total wheat failure in Eastern Washington. We are not aware of any frost to do injury to grain about here this year. All kinds of grains and grasses are looking admirable, and promise enormous yields of an excellent quality.

Correspondence Albany Herald: A walk around Lebanon would convince the most scrupulous that a writer would require a vocabulary, like Webster's, to say all the good things of it that it is entitled to and merits. The long dormant energies are aroused this Summer, and improvement progresses. The carpenter's hammer is restless, and building after building is being erected. An elevator, or warehouse, is now being built with a capacity of 100,000 bushels, and will soon be completed. Over this the farmers are jubilant, by it the town is made prosperous, and business flourishes. Another very considerable acquisition to the burg is Messrs. Claughton and Conn's hotel. This neatly finished and spacious building contains a nice office, large dining room, kitchen, a convenient sample room, and seventeen dormitories.

Colfax Democrat: The question is often asked by strangers in this region whether or not this country will produce fruit. Of the small fruits there can be no doubt but that every variety can be produced in abundance, unless it be blackberries, and these can be successfully grown where irrigation is possible. Strawberries can be grown as successfully here as in Oregon, where the ruling price is from three to five cents per pound in the height of the season. Gooseberries produce most extraordinarily, and the fruit is of excellent quality. Currants, raspberries and cherries are a sure crop; plums seem to do well ordinarily. Of course, in this latitude we are liable to failure, as this year, when the late severe frosts killed the apple blooms. It may be positively stated that all small fruits do well, and the apple, plum, etc., are tolerably sure.

Columbia Chronicle: The railroad has rendered possible, and the enterprise and energy of Chas. P. Church, of Portland, inaugurated a new era in the grain trade of the Walla Walla valley. For years it has been customary for farmers to ship their wheat through some local business house or consign it to some Portland firm. The farmer paid the freight, warehouse charges and a heavy commission, and with what patience he could muster, awaited the returns of his agent. Months would elapse, during which time the price of wheat was alternately up and down, and when finally the returns did come, it was generally found that their agent had sold for the lowest price. Indeed the farmer was fortunate if the returns were not simply a bill of costs. Now all this is changed. He sells his grain outright and gets his money. The buyer furnishes sacks, pays freight, commission and charges, and takes the risk. This is better for the farmer as his returns are immediate, and there is no gnawing interest to eat up any possible profit.

Columbia Chronicle: J. T. Ogden, last week, returned from an extended trip to Spokane and Whitman counties. He visited the country lying in what is known as the big bend of the Columbia, a tract variously estimated to be from 85 to 110 miles long and from 15 to 30 miles wide, and which he thinks will prove to be the richest grain fields in the Territory. Mr. Ogden has, in the past few months, crossed the wheat belt of Columbia

and Whitman counties by three different routes, and thinks the crops average better beyond Snake River than on this side. Several are seriously talking of going to the big bend country with a view of permanently locating. If that section is ahead of this country, we don't blame them.

Eugene Guard: The hop crop in Lane Co. is said to be good, and parties raising hops are making ready for the harvest.

Wasco county contains 360 townships of land, and each township has 36 sections, and each section 640 acres, in all, 8,204,400. But a small part of this large acreage is owned. Much of it in time will be valuable and some is worthless.

Eugene Guard: Wheat has commenced rolling in and warehousemen are bestirring themselves lively. Kratz & Washburne, of the Junction City flouring mills, are kept busy day and night, filling orders and tending to the wheat which is coming in at the rate of a thousand bushels per day.

Dayton (W. T.) News: The price of wheat has been fluctuating the past few days between 52 and 55 cents. We were informed on Thursday, by an extensive buyer, that it would bring 55 cents in lots of 5,000 bushels or more, if a purchase could not be made under that price.

Dayton (W. T.) News: The wheat buyers of Dayton were on their metal on last Saturday. Any person having wheat to sell was not long without bidders. It was a race between those purchasing to see who could get away with the most grain. The market opened at 53 cents, but soon ran up to 55 cents, where it remained until late in the day when it advanced to 56 and 57 cents. Several thousand bushels were sold at these figures, but a great many farmers held for 60 cents. On Monday morning the price advanced to 58 cents, but telegrams were soon received which caused it to drop several cents.

Nec Perce News: The O. R. & N. Co. deserve praise for putting on three boats per week to remove our products this year. We should like to see Mr. Villard come up and see for himself our magnificent prairies, so that he could gain some idea of the urgent necessity there is for the construction of a railroad to this point. From conversation we have had with property holders here, we believe that free right of way and, probably, depot grounds will be granted to the company. Lewiston is the key to the Far Interior, and the company that comes here first will command an empire in area and resources.

Dayton (W. T.) Chronicle: Coming down the street a few days ago, we were astonished to see Chicago sugar cured hanging temptingly displayed in front of the grocery store of Katrik & Garrett. And we were further astonished to learn that not only hams and bacon but lard shipped all the way from Chicago was retailing in Dayton at the same rates as the home product. We could scarcely credit this statement, but could not doubt the evidences of our senses. What is the cause of this state of affairs? Cannot our farmers make good, marketable bacon and lard, or is it too much trouble? Hard times and Chicago bacon! Is there not something singular in this matter, something that needs explanation? Will not some of the readers of the Chronicle give this subject a little attention and us the benefit of their researches? With our almost boundless fields of wheat and corn land, to be shipping bacon and lard from beyond the Rockies or anywhere else, paying freight on our wheat and flour down and return freight on the imports, denotes a want of economy that is perfectly incomprehensible.

The Narrow Gauge Railroad

State Journal.

The narrow gauge is now graded all the way through to Goburg. Both Muddy bridges are framed, as is also the Calipooa, and piles are driven on each side of it up to the creek. Mr. Rumsey is now engaged in locating the stations. The name of Goburg has been changed to Vandyne. Stations have been located at Edelman's, Horace Lane's, S. P. Ironspiger's, Amos Dunham's and Vandyne. The right of way and conveyancing, with one or two exceptions, have been secured. It is expected the road will be carrying wheat by the 1st of October. No warehouses will be built this season, but temporary sheds will be erected by the farmers, from which the grain will be shipped.

North Powder

Baker County Revueille.

Mr. Foster has recently finished surveying and laying off a town in township six south, range 30 east, sections twenty-two and twenty-three. It is owned by James Welch, proprietor of the North Powder mills, and the town plat embraces nearly two hundred acres. Already several houses have been constructed. A large amount of ground is reserved for the railroad depot. The new town is bounded on the south by North Powder river, a clear, pure cold stream from the mountains. It is about twenty miles distant from Baker City.

PACIFIC MUTUAL Life Insurance Company OF CALIFORNIA. A. M. KINNIE, MANAGER FOR State of Oregon and Idaho and Washington Territories. 102 First Street, Portland, Oregon.

To Our Policy Holders and the General Public of Oregon and Washington Territory:

The first consideration with applicants for Life Insurance is, or at least should be, SAFETY. Will the money paid out for the policy be promptly invested? Are the affairs of the Company honestly and efficiently administered? When the policy becomes a claim, will it be promptly paid, and thus the object which induced the payment of the premium be fully attained. These are queries naturally suggested and the character of the answer determines the course of the questioner and the selection of his company. In this connection, the managers of the PACIFIC MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY respectfully beg leave to submit the following facts and statements concerning their Company: 1st—Since its organization, A. D. 1868, it has paid 353 death losses, on policies amounting in the aggregate to \$2,222,975. 2d—It has paid to policy holders for mutual endorsement, dividends and surrendered values in round numbers, \$1,000,000. 3d—It has repeatedly been examined by sworn experts, and most thorough and searching investigations made of its condition and business, and in every case its solvency and trustworthiness have been demonstrated. 4th—Its Stockholders and Directors are widely known as among the most capable business men and ablest financiers of the State of California, and the integrity of their management is unquestioned. 5th—The laws of the State, including the Constitutional provisions affecting corporations, are of the most rigid character, such as to make the Company one of the safest institutions of its kind. Section 3 of Article XII of the New Constitution of the State of California, is as follows: Section 3.—Each stockholder of a corporation or joint stock association shall be individually and personally liable for such proportion of all its debts and liabilities contracted or incurred during the time he was a stockholder, as the amount of stock or shares owned by him bears to the whole of the subscribed capital stock or shares of the corporation or association. The Directors or Trustees of corporations and joint stock associations shall be jointly and severally liable to the creditors and stockholders for all moneys embezzled or misappropriated by the officers of such corporation or joint stock association, during the term of office of such Director or Trustee.

The PACIFIC MUTUAL is the only Life Insurance Company Lending Money upon Real Estate on the Pacific Coast. It has loaned more than \$2,000,000 upon approved Real Estate in this coast, thus materially aiding in the development of the natural resources of the country, and affording palpable and indisputable evidence of its financial strength. A considerable portion of the sum mentioned has been loaned in Oregon and Washington Territory, and still further sums are being loaned there.

Table with 4 columns: Name and Residence, Premiums paid by Insured, and Amt. Policy. Lists names like James N. Ammerman, Andrew J. Overbeck, Asher P. Wall, etc., with their respective policy amounts.

The Company has recently been examined by the Insurance Commissioner of California in person, and obtained his favorable report, as evidenced by the following certificate and letter: CALIFORNIA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. Book No. 18.

CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION.

Capital, Assets and Liabilities of a Company of this State. OFFICE OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. SAN FRANCISCO, March 25, 1881.

I, J. C. MAYNARD, hereby certify that I am the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California and have supervised the organization of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company of California as a corporation properly organized under the laws of this State, and possessed of a paid up capital of One Hundred Thousand Dollars, equal to gold coin of the United States, is authorized to do business in the State. And I further certify that, upon an examination of the books and papers of the said company, at the close of the year eighteen hundred and eighty, it was shown to be possessed of good valid assets, amounting to the sum of One Million One Hundred and Seventy nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty-five and 10/100 dollars, (\$1,179,285.09) and had outstanding liabilities as defined by the laws of the State, amounting to Eight Hundred and Thirty eight Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty-seven Dollars, (\$826,237.09) exclusive of capital stock.

As witness my hand and official seal, the day and year first above written. J. C. MAYNARD, Insurance Commissioner. By M. M. RIBBER, Deputy.

OFFICE OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. SAN FRANCISCO, March 25, 1881.

DIL GEO. A. MOORE, President Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, Sacramento, Cal. Dear Sir: You will please find enclosed herewith the certificate verifying, through a personal examination, the correctness of your Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1880, on file in this office. It is due to this home company, and to its able and judicious management, that I should express my gratification at the healthy condition it is in, assuring it, I confidently believe, a prosperous, stable future. Very respectfully, etc., J. C. MAYNARD, Insurance Commissioner.

We respectfully submit that the statements of the officers of the company, and the certificate of a competent sworn officer of the State, are better evidence of its condition and trustworthiness than are the malicious statements of irresponsible and shallow paid agents of other companies, who have so little appreciation of the fitness of things and are so destitute of ordinary business sagacity as to believe that they can advance their own and their companies' business by uncalculated and malicious attacks upon their competitors. The public will do well to avoid an agent, or a company, that poses so little merit as to be compelled to subsist upon the denunciations of others.

Believing ourselves entitled to the confidence and business of such as propose effecting the insurance upon human life, we solicit their patronage, and pledge ourselves to discharge, to the best of our ability, the important and sacred trusts devolved upon us. ROBERT SHERWOOD, SAML. LAVENSON, CHARLES S. FOX, J. F. HOUGHTON, J. H. CARROLL, E. C. CLARK, ROBERT HAMILTON, GEO. A. MOORE, EDW. CADWALADER, L. S. ADAMS, HUGH M. LABUE, W. R. CLUNES, M. BEYTE, D. W. EARL, Directors Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Board Meeting:

Resolved, That the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company of California has been prompt and just in all its dealings with this board, and with the individual members thereof. Resolved, That the members of this board regard the statements as to the solvency of said Company, and the integrity of its officers recently circulated in this community by agents of rival companies as utterly false and malicious. Resolved, That we recommend the Pacific Mutual to the people of the Pacific Coast as the best company to be insured in. Resolved, That we recognize in Mr. A. McKinnie, the manager of said company for Oregon and the Territories of Washington and Idaho, an able, energetic, courteous, and thoroughly reliable officer, under whose management the business of the company in this department cannot fail to prosper. Resolved, That this board will heartily co-operate in the work of increasing the business of said company and maintaining its prestige in Washington Territory.

GEO. D. HILL, President Seattle Board. JESSE W. GEORGE, Vice President. C. H. HANFORD, Secretary. SEATTLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: GEO. D. HILL, J. W. GEORGE, G. A. WOOD, S. F. ANDREWS, GEO. W. WARD, ROBERT KNIFE, C. H. HANFORD, C. F. STROK, E. DENNORSE, W. A. JENNINGS.

The Portland Board is Composed of the following well-known Men, who represent \$10,000 each:

- JAMES STEELE, Cashier First National Bank. CHARLES HODGE, Hoyle, Davis & Co. J. A. STROUBERIDGE, Wholesale Leather and Findings. C. A. DOLPH, Attorney at Law. E. C. HENRIQUES, Hardware & Gentery. J. McCREAKEN, Wholesale Dealer. G. E. NOTTAGE, Physician. J. R. GILL, Stationer. E. F. ROGERS, General Ticket and Freight Agent Oregon & California. W. W. SPALDING, Wholesale Butcher. JOSEPH H. BIRKHEAD. FRANKSONSHIL. C. M. WIERGO. ANDREW ROBERTS. JOHN CHAN.