

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

The Boise City Stateman says: An average of twenty wagon loads per day go through our city, most of them containing immigrants bound for the Palouse.

It is said that an error has been found in the boundary line between Wasco and Umatilla counties. The error, if corrected, will give about thirty miles more territory to Wasco county.

A correspondent of the Itemizer writing from Buena Vista says that the yield of wheat is not so good as was expected. Fall wheat is light, spring wheat good. An average crop is the result.

The narrow gauge has been completed to Airline and a warehouse is being erected there by the company, but they will not obtain much grain this season, having been too tardy in their movements.

Mr. P. Jackson informs the Hillsboro Independent that a piece of his wheat is badly rusted, though it struck the crop too late and has not apparently damaged the grain any. This is the first account we have of rust in this county this year.

Malheur Indian Reservation has been abandoned by the United States, and will soon be thrown open for settlement. It is hoped by our members in Congress that no job is put up by the cattle kings of that region, and add it to their already enormous range. The common people ought to have some chance to get homes in Eastern Oregon.

On Monday, August 15th, two additional route agents were put on the Columbia river route, who will go through to Dayton, W. T., without change. Heretofore the route agents went only as far as The Dalles. This rapid transmission of the mail will be a great convenience to the people of Eastern Oregon and Washington.

Mr. M. T. Crawford, Superintendent of Schools for Whitman county, furnishes the following statistics:—There are in the county 2,100 persons of school age, an increase of 400 over last year. In the Colfax district there are 169 persons of school age, an increase of 34 over last year. Schools have been taught in 51 districts during the school year just ended.

In regard to the value of slashing, the following from the Hillsboro Independent is a good recommendation: Last week W. B. Jolly harvested seven acres of wheat sown on "slashing" where the stumps occupied a large part of the ground. Two acres of it was sown in Mould's White Winter wheat, which yielded 32 bushels to the acre machine measure, and he believes it will go 40 bushels by weight. The rest of the piece was sown in another variety of wheat and looked equally as well as the other.

From Auditor Bragg's office of Whitman county, the Democrat gathers the following statistics:

Total value of all property assessed	\$2,334,738
Total value of real estate	564,376
Total value of improvements thereon	166,064
Total value of all personal property	1,604,300
Number of acres of land assessed	239,853

As compared with last year, this shows an increase in the total value of all property assessed of \$595,385. In the value of real estate of \$241,129. In the value of improvements thereon of \$128,011. In the value of personal property of \$128,011. The tax levy last year was 14 mills on \$1,739,353, giving a revenue of \$25,691.57. The rate this year is 17 mills on \$2,334,738, giving a revenue of \$48,510.53, an increase of \$22,828.96.

EASTERN HOP MARKET.

From the W. T. Terville, (N. Y.) Times of August 18th and 25th, we glean the following: "There are but few transactions the past week. Picking has begun to quite an extent, and there will probably be some put on the market next week. Those who have been picking the early hops are getting a lighter return than was expected, and expect the same in the late crop. The weather is fine for keeping and hops still continue to look fine, thereby making an outside appearance which is to a certain extent deceiving. Red rust has appeared locally in yards; but is not general. Lice are not general, though a few yards are affected. Nine bales of 1880's brought 19¢. Of 1881's, 14 bales of fine Palmer seedlings for export to Europe brought 25¢. A few bales of Humphreys sold for 25¢.

The home market still has an extremely quiet bearing, and dealers have nothing to do but guess and speculate on the incoming crop, which is looking better and better; and we have no reason to change our former estimate of 25 per cent. off of last year's crop in the State, and 10 to 15 in this vicinity, unless to make it a little more favorable. The outlook is a bright one for an average crop of least quality. In old hops we hear of a lot of 80 bales of 1880's which changed hands at 15¢. Choice 1880's are getting scarce, and

but few are held in this vicinity by growers, while dealers have very few. We consider a choice 1880 hop worth full value now. Two or three bales of the new Palmer seedlings were obtained in Madras county for 27¢. We also hear of a lot of 3 bales, bought this week at 25¢, but the ruling price has been 22¢, and quite a number of bales have been transferred at the latter figure. Picking of early varieties will begin to some extent next Monday.

WHEAT AND ITS OUTLOOK.

LETTER NUMBER TWO.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Sept. 5, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer: In my first paper I endeavored to show that however important to the development and material interests of this Northwest coast the railroads now and prospectively building would be, there was still a greater interest to be considered, namely a Panama ship canal. And lest I be understood as a croaker and unfriendly to these railroad interests, let me say that no one hails them with more joy or more earnestly desires their early completion. And to these gigantic interests I address myself with no less earnestness and respect, than to the agricultural and other interests. And because the railroads are now building to carry, not the products now raised, but those to come, makes this question rise in huge proportions before them. For, as I said before, wheat, their most important article of freight, cannot be raised for shipment abroad under paying prices, nor the development of the great wheat empire go on with much success until a more reliable market obtains. It will be very unwise and extremely impolitic to trust in the future, as we have had to do in the past, to the caprice of tonnage and the accident of misfortune abroad. To-day we are at the mercy of ship owners. At all reasonably accessible points to Portland, wheat should be quick at one dollar per bushel under the quotations from Liverpool. Give us a ship canal, and we can successfully compete with the great Mississippi basin, which is now the barometer to the wheat market of the world. Give us a ship canal, and the untouched lands of Eastern Oregon and Washington and Idaho Territories will rise up into one vast wheat field, and the Willamette valley will soon more than double its crop. Then would the railroad cars double under their loads, and the locomotives tire under the bending rails of the upgrades. But, without a ship canal, the locomotives may have an easy time for years. We are an integral part of the United States, and all interests should stand as far as may be on a common basis. At present we are at a great disadvantage in what we buy as in what we sell, and all growing out of this enormous freight tax. We have had to stand it in the past, shall we always do so in the future?

W. L. COCHRAN.

From Yamhill County.

WAPATO LAKE, Or., Aug. 27, 1881.

Editor Willamette Farmer: Not having seen anything in your paper from the lake, doubtless you think the people are not alive to the sense of duty in this section, as I think it is the duty of farmers to write and give the paper all the news they can about their crops, etc. If the farmers do not take an interest in supporting their home paper, how do they expect for our editor to give them the news of the country generally? Our farmers are very busily engaged harvesting their grain. Most all the Fall grain is about harvested, and is turning out a fair crop, while on an average Spring grain, where the land has been properly cultivated, will yield more per acre than Fall grain. Barley is generally good; it is thought by some of our farmers that their best barley will yield 80 bushels per acre. I don't see why the farmers don't raise more barley and not so much wheat, as I think barley will pay the best on foul ground. It most always makes a fair yield, and brings a fair price in market and is the finest of hof feed. Oats are fine on the lake this year. I helped to harvest a piece of oats for our neighbor, John Flett, and they went 67 bushels per acre on an average; they were good. Would say to those who want to buy nice, clean seed oats, that they could do no better than to call on our well-known citizen, Geo. Myers, who has for two years, with his labor and a small cost, been enclosing and draining a piece of lake land that most people believed and told him he would never get his coat out of. But he has now 100 acres completely drained nice and dry, and has about sixty acres in oats this year that will stand five feet high on an average, and it is thought by most everybody who see them that they will thresh 90 or 100 bushels per acre. He also has fine specimens of beets, cabbage, rutabagas, onions, carrots, etc. The land is of a black loam, mixed with the sediment drained from the hill land, with

sand enough to make it easily cultivated. This present and first crop proves to Mr. Myers that he has got a piece of land that he might call the garden spot of earth. The heavy rain yesterday stopped all harvesting for a few days. GEORGE.

A Home Industry.

Union County Record.

Among the many industries of our country, the one deserving special mention in these columns is the fruit drying establishment of Mr. S. G. French, in the Cove. The crop of peach plums had just been gathered and dried, the yield of which is over 20,000 lbs. The other varieties of this fruit will not ripen for two or three weeks, and will probably yield more than twice this amount. The plums will not ripen till October. The plum orchard consists of three thousand trees, all of which are thriving well and have been literally "dead loaded"—many of the branches breaking under the weight of the fruit. There are also large orchards of apple, prunes, peach and pear trees, and all of them are in nice straight rows, and have been carefully set out and cultivated. The peach plums attain an enormous size; a statement of the dimensions would hardly be credited by one who has not seen them. They are fully five inches in circumference on an average. This estimate, however, is not based on actual measurement, but is, nevertheless, none too high. The most interesting part of the work is the drying business which requires constant attention and a great number of operatives. The first thing, which attracted our notice, was about a dozen girls who were engaged in pitting plums. This is done both by hand and machine—the process depending upon the nature of the fruit. The free stones are usually pitted by setting in halves. After this they are ready for the dryer. This is of simple construction, being nothing more nor less than a close room with the necessary attachments for holding the fruit, and having a heater beneath. It is kept at a temperature of about 180 degrees, Fahrenheit. The time required in drying is about twelve hours. The capacity of the drying room is nearly 2,000 pounds, and as it is kept filled night and day, the amount of fruit dried in twenty-four hours is two tons. Quite a large quantity is also dried in the sun, but this process is much slower than the other and is not considered as good as drying in the kiln, since it takes about a week to dry in the sun in favorable weather, and besides the difference gained in time the kiln drying process may be carried on at any time, and keeps the fruit free from insects. Being a little anxious to know what would be done with so much fruit, we asked the proprietor how he intended to dispose of it, and were told that a great deal of it had already been sold to supply the home demand. The remainder he will probably send to Idaho, where a ready sale is expected at good figures, as the quality of the fruit is far better than that generally in the market, and having a shorter distance to freight it, will be able to undersell all other dealers. The value of such industries in our midst can hardly be too highly estimated. The products of which will be an excellent advertisement for this country and is likely to be the means of inducing still greater enterprises of this kind. It is also a rich harvest for many young people who, if not employed in this way, would be idle. The number of hands employed by Mr. French is from forty to forty-five, at an expense of about ninety dollars per day. Whatever may be his success one thing is certain, that fruit of an excellent quality and in immense quantities can be grown in Eastern Oregon. There are many other orchards in Union county, which, although smaller than this one, give farther proof of this fact, and the only thing we have to regret is that there is not more of them.

Eugene.

State Journal.

Mr. H. E. Hayes, a prominent farmer and fruit grower of Clackamas county, was in town this week on a brief visit. He had not been in Eugene for an interval of sixteen years, and was very much surprised at the vast improvement of our burg since that time. He says the building now going on, both of stores and dwellings, impress a stranger with the idea that business must be good and increasing. For beauty and a pleasant place to reside, he considers Eugene ahead of any town in Oregon. On account of this and the superior educational facilities, he may at some future time make this place his home.

The Credit System.

East Oregonian.

The basis of this country is the intolerable habit people have gotten into of dealing on credit so extensively as is the custom. It is the bane of every branch of trade. When a man does a piece of work or sells an article he is expected, so it seems, to wait a year or more for his money, and when this time expires the

creditor in many instances has to discount his bill or pay a portion of it to an attorney for collecting the balance. It is often harder work to secure money after it is earned than to earn it. All classes are subject to this criticism—one almost as much as another—but we think if there is any difference the farming element of our country is more especially open to this reproach. For past action we do not at all mean to condemn our farmer friends, as a class, for we regard them in all communities as the bone and sinew of the land, and we know that in too many cases necessity has forced them into this practice against their will. Now, however, since nature has granted them such abundant crops, there is scarcely one of them that cannot get square with the world—and after getting square their aim should be to hold the ground thus acquired. It is better for themselves and all others that this loose way of doing business should be abandoned, and we hope to see a reform inaugurated that will go through all classes of men. There are some individuals who would buy an elephant or a kangaroo if they could get it on time, but they are always in the mare. The man who deals on a cash basis is master of the situation.

Weather Report for August, 1881.

During August, 1881, there were 3 days, during which rain fell, and 1.24 in. water; 17 clear and 11 cloudy days, other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 61.23°. Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 80°, at 2 o'clock P. M., on the 18th. Lowest temperature, 49°, at 9 o'clock P. M., on the 27th.

Mean temperature for the month, at 2 o'clock P. M., 73.10°. Highest temperature for the month, 89°, at 2 o'clock P. M., on the 18th. Lowest temperature, 49°, at 9 o'clock P. M., on the 27th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the North during 20 days, South 6 days, Southwest 4 days, Northwest 1 day.

During August, 1880, there were 4 days, during which rain fell; 1.39 in. of water, 22 clear and 5 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month, 62.80°. Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 72°, on the 20th and 21st.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 55° on the 30th.

Sept. 1, 1881. T. PRAIRIE.

The Malheur Country.

Baker County Review.

From C. M. Foster, Surveyor, we learn that Malheur River bottom is eleven hundred feet lower than Baker City. He says the country is fast settling up by a good class of emigrants. A ditch, some ten or fifteen miles long, is being constructed for irrigation purposes. The climate over there is much warmer than here, and hence the country will be a good one for fruit growing as well as vegetables of all kinds and the cereals. Evidently there is a great outcome for that country in the near future. The time is approaching when a county will be organized that portion of Baker county lying south of the mountains. Timber for fencing, fuel and lumber will be floated down out of the mountains in the Malheur. And the time is not very distant when timber will also be furnished the settler as the railroads now rapidly being constructed.

Large Harvest East of the Mountains.

Walla Walla Union.

During the week we have asked a large number of farmers from many parts of the valley, "how are the wheat fields yielding?" The majority answer by stating that the yield is not as great as they expected it would be, but that the quality of the grain is in every respect first class. Dealers in grain, men whose business it is to keep posted on the area and yield of the grain fields, express about the same opinion. Many fields are reported which yield over 40 bushels to the acre, some going up to 50 and more bushels; but the general run of answers by farmers is, "between 25 and 30 bushels." We have heard of two or three fields, located on the light lands between the lower Touchet and Dry creek, which did not produce 10 bushels to the acre. The area of such fields is very limited, however. One singular fact, as expressed by one farmer is "that the man who did the poorest farming in this year getting the best crops." To the hot, dry weather which prevailed during the month of May, the total rainfall being only .19 of an inch against an average fall during May of 2.35 inches, must be attributed to this state of affairs, as the carefully harrowed and rolled ground was baked hard and dry, while the roughly tilled soil retained its moisture and lightness. The prevailing opinion among grain raisers and dealers is that what will give an average yield this year, in Walla Walla county, of between 25 and 30 bushels per acre. The best judges assert that the area in wheat in Walla Walla county is larger than ever before.

Putting together all statements in regard to yield and area, we think it is safe to say that there will be more wheat to sell this year in Walla Walla county, than there was in the "big crop year," 1879. The total shipments over the W. W. & C. R. R. during the year ending June 30, 1880, were 39,202 tons of wheat and 8,362 tons of flour. Umatilla county wheat fields are reported as giving a greater average yield per acre than fields in Walla Walla county, while the area is very largely in excess of any previous year. It is possible that there will be shipped from Umatilla county of this year's crop, from 25,000 to 30,000 tons of wheat. The fields of Columbia county, particularly those in the Deadman portion, are reported as exceeding in area and yield any previous year. We have no data on which to base a careful estimate, but think it probable that there will be this season an excess in Columbia county of over 20,000 tons of wheat. We have no means of knowing what the harvest is in the Palouse and Spoken countries and in Northern Idaho, but believe that they have a large excess of wheat to export. We should not be surprised if the region of country lying East of the Columbia and West of the Blue and Coeur d'Alene mountains has for export this year 100,000 tons, or over 3,500,000 bushels of wheat. Could 50 cents per bushel be guaranteed to the farmers next year, this excess would be more than doubled.

Immigration to America.

The New York Tribune says: Agents are now here from Colorado to obtain 500 farm laborers with the promise of plenty of work and good wages. The demand for farm and other laborers is greater than ever before. Fully 50 per cent. of the German immigration will settle west of the Mississippi river. Great efforts are being made by Jay Gould and others interested in the Texas railway to encourage immigration to Texas. Circulars have been issued to ocean steamship lines and booking agents here and in Europe authorizing the selling of tickets to immigrants desiring to settle in Texas from New York to any point in Texas at a uniform rate of \$25, with 10 per cent. commission to agents. There is a marked change in the destination of Irish immigrants, as a greater percentage are settling in Missouri and Arkansas than formerly. A large number of Italians are going to Ohio, and a special effort is being made to attract them to Florida by capitalists who have purchased large tracts of land in that State. Scandinavians are going to the Northwest, but not so fast as in former years. The majority are settling in Nebraska and Minnesota.

Umatilla Crops.

East Oregonian.

The work of threshing has so far advanced in this county that a general idea of the result may be arrived at. Dr. Blalock, on his ranch near Walla Walla, seems to stand at the head of our wheat producers. He has sold the enormous quantity of 70,000 bushels, and some of his land ran as high as fifty bushels to the acre. The prospect wheat farm stands next and will produce 40,000 bushels. They are now threshing the crop there. Among our "smaller farmers" the season has been equally favorable. Mr. Brown living on Wild Horse has 10,000 or 12,000 bushels; J. C. Long has 4,000 bushels or more, and to look the wheat region over it seems an insoluble mystery how the grain is to be gotten out of the country. We have heard of no crop in the county that has produced less than thirty bushels to the acre.

American Wheat in Canada.

A large deputation of Ontario and Quebec farmers waited upon the Canadian Minister of Finance and the Minister of Customs of Ottawa, lately, with a view of having some change effected in the bonding system of American wheat. They asked that the word "products" should be changed to an equivalent under the existing regulations. For every four and a half bushels of American wheat imported they enter into a bond for the export of a barrel of flour. Owing to the softness of Canadian wheat, they are unable to produce strong bakers flour and compete successfully with American flour. With a view, therefore, to overcome this difficulty, they claim that they should be allowed to mix Canadian with American wheat in equal proportions for home consumption or export, as the case may be. The matter will be laid before the Privy Council for consideration.

EARNEST RAILROAD BUILDING.—The Sacramento Record-Union of August 15th said: "A gentleman who has just arrived from the East states that the Union Pacific Railroad Company is using all the men it can procure upon the construction of its new line from Granger, Wyoming Territory, to Boise City, Idaho, and that it is to be extended from there to Portland, Oregon. He says not only are all the men employed that can be obtained, but that women are employed as cooks all along the line, and the work of grading and laying rails is being pushed rapidly forward."

ROGUE RIVER VALLEY.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The principal water course of Southern Oregon is the stream, known as Rogue river (or Gold river.) The river derives its name from the tribe of Indians which inhabited the valley, formed by the basin, through which the river takes its way. These Indians were very mischievous, and hence the name Rogue river. The head of Rogue river is situated in the Cascade range of mountains under the shadows of Mt. McLoughlin, and adjacent to Crater Lake, one of the wonders of Oregon scenery, from which, some suppose, it derives its origin. It comes tumbling down from its native place through canyons, and over rocky precipices, and on by fertile plains, and finally crosses a passage through the Coast range of mountains, and empties into the Pacific ocean.

My letter at present shall treat of the Rogue river valley from an agricultural standpoint. The valley is 40 miles in length by 15 to 20 miles in width, and comprises every variety of agriculture. Wheat is extensively cultivated, and our authority states that the yield of the valley for the present year will be 300,000 bush, all of which will be ground and find a market in the valley and surrounding mining camps. There are several excellent flouring mills in the valley; one is situated at Jacksonville with two run of burrs and a chopper with a capacity of 150 barrels per day. This mill was built last Fall by Messrs. McKenzie and Foudry. The mill is furnished with all the latest and best improved machinery, and is run by steam.

There are three other mills; one at Phoenix and the other at Ashland, also one between Phoenix and Ashland; of the other mills we know but little not having visited them. There are three towns situated in the valley, the principal of which is Jacksonville. Here an extensive business is carried on in merchandise, etc. Jacksonville is situated to the East of the valley, nestled in close to the mountains; it was originally a mining town and derived its origin from Rich Gulch, one of the richest placer diggings in Southern Oregon. These mines are now worked out, but in their stead has grown up an agricultural community, which although not so exciting, yet is quite as profitable. Mining and agriculture combined give this section good times most of the year, and money is quite plentifully scattered about. The location is beautiful; to the South dark ever-green, fir clad mountains rise up and hem in the valley; directly in front, or East the Cascade range, with Mount McLoughlin standing sentry to the natural pass formed by Rogue river in its westward course to the ocean; while still further to the right, the Cascades form a circle, and in front of which is table rock—a high rock which rises with abrupt and seemingly unmountainable sides, the top of which appears level and uninhabitable. Here, during the Rogue river Indian war, one of the severest battles was fought, and at one place on the rock, it is claimed, an old squaw leaped over the precipice, and was dashed to pieces and instantaneous death. The scenery all along is grand; we climb the mountain in ascending the course of the river. All through the valley are nestled quiet and beautiful farm homes, many of which speak of comfort and affluence. At the upper end of the valley is situated Ashland, a beautiful spot, which is made none the less beautiful by the hand of woman and her love for flowers. On every side blossoms profusely growing greet us, and the air is filled with their fragrance. The homes are neat and tastefully adorned. Good school facilities and milling industries make Ashland a busy and quite an important place. There is an excellent school under the management of Prof. L. L. Rogers, with an able corps of assistants. The woolen mills intend increasing their capacities double what they now are, next year.

Wm. J. C.

When Stephen Girard died fifty years ago, he little thought of the magnitude to which his bequest for the foundation of a college for orphans would grow. The college commenced with 300 orphan pupils. It now contains 1,000, and accommodation for still more is in course of construction. Its finances have been managed with the greatest fidelity and judgment, and its revenue for 1880 was \$386,753. The real estate he left to the college, especially the coal mines, has increased in value beyond all expectation. History furnishes no example of a college whose success has been so great. It was opened for the reception of pupils in 1818. The buildings thus far have cost about \$2,000,000, the main one, in the form of a Corinthian temple, being 169 feet long, 111 feet wide, 97 feet high, and is said to be the finest specimen of Greek architecture of modern times.

DEED.—At Castle Rock, W. T., Rosa Egbert infant daughter of R. C. and Clara B. aged four months and three days.