



Issued every Week by the WILLAMETTE FARMER PUBLISHING CO. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. One year, (Postage paid), in advance \$2.50

THE PRESIDENTS HEALTH

During the week past President Garfield has been at the very borders of the grave. Saturday his case was considered desperate.

IMPROVE THE COLUMBIA BAR.

We coincide with those who consider the improvement of the bar of the Columbia river a matter of prime necessity, more important than the clearing out of the channel of the Columbia and Willamette from Portland to the sea.

BETTER MARKETS FOR DRIED FRUITS.

In view of the fact that the fruit crop of the Atlantic States has suffered greatly in some respects, the crop of peaches for instance being an absolute failure, whereas it usually is immense, we have some reason to look for an improved market for Oregon dried fruits.

The apple crop and some other fruits, are not so abundant as usual this year with us, but tens of thousands of bushels of fruit will go to waste, and either rot under the trees or be eaten by hogs.

has shown that the management of a fruit dryer is just the work for a family, where the children can prepare fruit and the mother or elder sister attend it, but we commend to every one to get a thermometer for 50 cents and hang on the outside, over the furnace, by which to judge the degree of heat needed.

THE FUTURE OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC REGION.

Several important facts in connection with the Northern Pacific Railroad will ultimately tend to the commercial advantage of the Pacific terminus and insure the financial prosperity of that enterprise.

The development of the great interior tributary to the Northern Pacific will call for the building of numerous branch roads and the progress of this whole region must open up considerable trade with the Pacific Coast States which will be a future advantage.

The future will bring to our States manufacturing industries and a laboring population to be fed and clothed. The present is prosperous in a degree, but the future gives promise of maturity and perfection such as we have never reached and is unattainable to a new and only forming state of society.

WHAT POOR CROPS MEAN IN OREGON.

Whenever we hear of poor crops in this country it is safe to examine for the cause. Some people talk about the exhaustion of soils, but when we come to land that has been in crop for 30 to 40 years and responds with 35 bushels per acre on a Summer fallow, we can put it down that the soil of western Oregon has qualities that are not readily exhausted.

to any extent to account for this result and that the methods of cultivation are to blame. We told him that if he had plowed and harrowed in the Fall to start the weeds and had plowed again as early as possible in the Spring and seeded the land, he could have counted on 20 bushels per acre, and he replied that the man of whom he rented did so and had clean land and a good yield, over twenty bushels.

Looking at the whole subject of grain cultivation there is great reason to urge better cultivation and more care. The soil is wonderfully and permanently productive and we have no right to charge our culpable farming upon it to depreciate its value.

Land is becoming too valuable to waste in poor farming, and that value must be eventually destroyed if there is no change from consecutive crops of grain. The remedy is at every man's hand and the man is greatly to be blamed who does not cultivate his land with such judgment as to protect its fertility from severe loss, so that he can leave it as a

FRUIT AS A FARM CROP.

A California newspaper, with the spirit of glorification peculiar to that modest commonwealth, remarks that when the world was impoverished and in debt California came to its relief with untold millions of gold; when the world was threatened with scarcity of bread, having exhausted its placers the golden State changed its pastures into wheat fields, in the nick of time, and the navies of nations came there to load with grain and the hungry people were fed; and now, last but not least, when the world is rich and has means to support luxuries and feed its delicate appetite, California converts its foot hill into vineyards and orchards, sends luscious fruit to epicures of Eastern cities, and they pay six dollars and a half a box for Bartlett pears and California peaches, and recognize the providence with which the Pacific coast waits in timely attitude, to supply their needs.

The picture is drawn from our memory of what some one told us they read in a California journal, and while not verbatim is certainly characteristic of our neighbors style, and we repeat it because we claim that something of the same will be true of the Northern Pacific as soon as time brings us completed connection with Eastern cities by continuous rail. We have done our share towards feeding the world for years past, and the present year shows a wheat surplus for export from the Columbia river far greater than was ever known before.

is confirmed when we read that capitalists are investing great fortunes in planting orchards and constructing canning and drying establishments in California as they become aware that they have very choice fruits and have the world for their customer. While we do not grow as wide a range of fruits as they do in California, we do grow all fruits that are known in the temperate zone, and they are especially fine in flavor, actually finer grain and flavor than similar varieties grown in that State, and we constantly recognize that people who own land that is peculiarly adapted for fruit are missing a great opportunity in not planting out orchards.

THE NARROW GAUGE SYSTEM.

Considerable grain is being shipped by the narrow gauge railroads to points on the Willamette river, where these roads reach the stream, and transhipped thence by steamboats to Portland. The projectors of these roads had in view a complete system with the valley branches making a junction on the Willamette below Ray's Landing, and a main road taking the entire traffic thence to Portland.

Upon inquiry we learn that the grading is completed to Bridgeport, on the West side, and within eleven and a half miles from Portland, and if we are not mistaken considerable grading is also done within that distance and nearer. The track is laid four miles north to Portland below the point where the West side branch strikes the river. We are informed that estimates made place the total cost of completing the road into Portland, including the steel rails, at \$165,000, and something over \$200,000, say \$227,000 in all will construct the projected bridge over the Willamette river at the junction.

WHAT A SPECIAL EDITOR SAYS.

Last Winter we published an interesting description of the Cold Spring country, Yamhill county, furnished by Mr. A. F. Parker, now editor of the Nez Perce News, Lewiston, I. T., and he writes us, as follows: LEWISTON, I. T., Sept. 1, 1881. Dear Sir: Just a line to let you know that about 300 inquiries for information, in response to my letter, in the FARMER on the Cold Spring country have come in from every State in the Union, and not a few from the land of the Blue Noses.

The Wheat Problem—Hold for One Dollar.

Permit me through your journal to have a talk with my brother farmers on what is our rights. First of all every man ought to have a fair price for his labor and no more, that being the case we ask: Do they get it, and if not, what is the reason? This question we cannot answer in full this time, though we will try and probe the question as far as the farmers are concerned.

for less money. 2d. Can we, the farmers and wheat dealers, do that? I think we can if we will but co-operate together, and here is how we can do it: They have the ships and we have the freight; now if they will not take cargoes at fair figures we can keep the freight and they can lay idle, which would be better than to allow our labor and the cream of our soil to go into the pockets of freight speculators. I want every reader of the FARMER, who has wheat to sell to report the number of tons he has for export, and say what he is willing to take for it to the FARMER, and don't neglect to ask a fair price for it. I will commence by reporting sixty tons that I will hold for thirty-three dollars and sixty-six and two-thirds cents (\$33.66) per ton, and they can't have it for a cent less. Come, brother farmers, lets hear from you. The markets of the world justify one dollar a bushel, and more, and equity says you should have it, and if you will hold out you can get it. The best late sets of our State is in your hands, and the hands of our home wheat merchants, who ought not to allow foreign ship owners to eat up our profits. So come to the front and let us see how much tonnage you will pledge yourselves to hold for a dollar a bushel.

[NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—THE FARMER will aid any movement of farmers to the best of its ability, but in view of the fact that at the present time the world has a light supply of shipping we cannot call the rise in freights the work of a ring entirely, but we have already contended that men who can afford to hold their grain should do so. If farmers will co-operate they can undoubtedly better their condition.]

WHEAT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Meeting of California Farmers to Combine against Extortionate Freight Rates.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 14.—A meeting of wheat growers desiring to form a protective association was held at Grangers' Hall this afternoon. The object of the meeting was to make a combination so that wheat growers should hold back their wheat in order to reduce the exorbitant rates of freight demanded from this port to Liverpool. The attendance was large and embraced several prominent farmers of the State. H. M. Larne was elected Chairman, and J. W. McCarty, of Modesto, Secretary. A letter from Mr. Ostrander was read, enclosing a set of resolutions for the formation of a wheat growers' association with the following objects: To insure more frequent intercourse of wheat growers residing in different parts of the State; to enable wheat growers to be more thoroughly and reliably informed at all times respecting crop prospects in this and foreign wheat producing countries, local and foreign markets, shipping facilities and any other information that may insure to their benefit; to enable farmers to reap the benefit of high foreign markets by chartering vessels and shipping their own wheat; to secure unity of action in influencing legislation in favor of the great agricultural interests of the State; to discourage all practices which may tend to lower the standard of California wheat in the great markets of the world; to enhance the value of our wheat and increase the productiveness of our land; to enable wheat growers of this State to act with promptitude and efficiency in any emergency in which their interests are threatened.

The following committee was appointed to revise the statistics presented by the various committees appointed at the last meeting of the quantity of wheat in the State: A. C. Pauls, II, of Stockton, J. McPike, of Stanislaus, Mr. Gardner, of Solana, and Mr. English, of Contra Costa.

The committee retired on returning report. The committee on Ostrander's resolution reported favorably, and it was adopted. The committee to ascertain the amount of wheat in the State were unable to make a complete report, but accounted by counties for 647,000 tons, and concluded that there is now in the State available for export not to exceed 950,000 tons; tonnage on way, 406,508 tons; in port, engaged, 65,694 tons; disengaged, 4,687 tons; registered or in carrying capacity, a total of 715,333 short tons.

D. Inman addressed the meeting in favor of two cents per pound for wheat and a wheat growers' organization.

Caleb Dorsey offered a resolution that growers hold on to their wheat until such time as vessels will carry it at reasonable rates; adopted.

The Chair said that if wheat was held until Jan. 1st, freights would be down to 23 sterling and wheat up to two cents.

Mr. English favored the withdrawing of samples from the hands of dealers who make use of them to bear the market.

Dr. Grattan stated that small growers were in need of money, and that they could better afford to sell wheat at present prices than to pay one and a quarter per cent. for money. The association should provide means by which one could be obtained at lower rates on warehouse receipts.

English moved to organize a wheat growers' association of California.

J. Applegarth said he was informed at the Nevada Bank that the bank would loan money at seven per cent. on receipts of country

warehouses, or at six per cent. on San Francisco or Port Costa receipts.

The Chair said that the Grangers' Bank was loaning all over the State at seven and eight per cent., and he understood that it would loan on wheat in warehouses of the association at six per cent.

English's motion to organize was adopted. Mr. Adams, manager of the Grangers' Business Association, explained that the association could store 20,000 tons of wheat at \$1 for the season, or at fifty cents for the first month and twenty-five cents for the following three months. They could obtain money on large lots of wheat so stored at six per cent., without any compounding interest, and he thought there would be no discrimination between large and small lots. He also explained that owing to the scarcity of railroad cars they could sell wheat near ship easier than up country.

English offered a resolution that a committee of seven be appointed to draw up a plan for permanent organization of a wheat growers' association; adopted. Forty-one names were handed to the secretary, of those proposing to join the organization. The chair appointed as a committee on organization, W. B. English, of Contra Costa county, E. J. Cobbs, of Visalia, A. C. Paulsell, of Stockton, A. D. Logan, of Colusa, L. M. Hickman, of Stanislaus, H. L. Ostrander, of Merced, and T. E. Tynan, of Stanislaus, with instructions to report at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, to which hour the meeting adjourned.

Industries in Union County.

Union county has a large variety of industries for a new country. Besides the common occupations of farming and stock raising there may be also enumerated those of mining and manufacturing, all of which are conducted on a pretty fair scale. The extent of our manufacturing may be seen by the following enumeration of the different manufacturing establishments in this country. There are seven grist mills in running order and one in course of construction. Of those now in operation six are run by water and one by steam. There are seventeen sawmills of which eight are run by water and nine by steam. The steam sawmills have an aggregate force of more than 200 horse power, and the amount of lumber which may be turned out from all the mills daily is something over 60,000 in inch lumber, but the amount which is actually sawed is a great deal more than in board measure. Of other mills of this kind there are eight for making laths and shingles, and five planing mills. Among other manufacturing we have a tannery and two cheese factories. There are also in Union county several lime and brick kilns, and many smaller establishments for the production of the common wares. This is certainly not a very bad showing for a country whose first settlement dates back but a few years.—Union County Record.

North Idaho.

Col. F. J. Parker writes from Camas prairie to his Walla Walla Statesman, as follows: "This is the richest and most prolific country I have ever been in, and the strides it has made since my departure from here in '77, at the time of the Nez Perce war, is truly wonderful. But from now on the rapidity and substantial nature of this growth depends largely upon railroad connections. This year's crop cannot be utilized and is almost all surplus, as the greatest part of last year's wheat is yet on hand. The railroad must tap this section sooner or later, as the produce here is ready for market. Lands require no irrigation—only thorough and intelligent cultivation—to produce bounteous crops, thus insuring the industrious and frugal man a good living and a competency from the first; but to accomplish this a railroad is needed. Until that time comes the settlers raise enough grain for their own immediate needs and depend almost exclusively upon stock for their support and profit. When this country approaches this condition, the effect upon the towns of this section will be almost magical, surrounded as they are by large fertile valleys which even now are rapidly settling up with men of small means, but with abundant pluck and energy."

Yakama County.

There are 69 acres in hops in Yakama valley. The yield this year is claimed will average 1,600 pounds to the acre, giving a total of 110,400 pounds. This is an increase of 8,400 pounds over last year. Allowing only 25 cents per pound to be realized this year's crop will foot up \$27,600. Quite a snug sum to be set in circulation in our county. But in our opinion the estimated yield is placed too low, as also the price in view of recent quotations. Some of our hop raisers estimate the yield as high as 1800 pounds to the acre, but in making up our estimate we have thought best to take the lesser figures. Hops, when properly managed, require about as much care as corn, and it is extremely difficult to get at the exact cost of drying, curing and baling, as the cost varies for different localities. The picking is mostly done by Yakama Indians, hundreds of whom are now engaged in picking the early crop. This will be first-class in quality and medium to fair in yield. The late crop will be first class in quality and yield.—Record.

Destruction of Game.

We are reliably informed that certain parties on or near Upper Burnt River are in the habit of killing deer, and throwing away the carcass. They kill just for the mere sake of killing. This practice cannot be too strongly condemned. Hunting is an ennobling and manly sport; but no man actuated by the feelings of a true hunter, will kill game simply for the sake of killing. This is brutal and sinful. Besides it is a violation of the spirit of the game laws, and they are liable to be prosecuted. If only ordinary prudence be observed by sportsmen and hunters, there will be plenty of deer and other game in our mountains for many long years to come; but they will not last very long if slaughtered in a spirit of mere wantonness and brutality.—Baker County Reville.