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TO TRAVEL EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS

William J. Clarke, connected with this paper for a long time, and son of the editor, will soon leave here to spend the Fall in traveling through Eastern Oregon and Washington in the interest of this paper.

The late drought has cut down the corn crop through all the corn growing States and, as a consequence, corn will advance in price and will sell higher.

We have a pleasant proof of popular appreciation by a gain of subscribers from unexpected quarters, and we recognize that if we could canvass the country for the WILLAMETTE FARMER its circulation would be immense.

The trial of Jack Powers for the murder of Ben Cornelius, in this city, July 4th, ended Saturday, and the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree.

By a spontaneous movement a fund has been started all over the United States, no person to give more than one dollar, the proceeds to be used as a means for the erection of a monument to the deceased President.

In California the exporters went in and bought 200,000 tons of wheat at once, when the foreign market took a start, and now they quietly load their ships and show no anxiety to buy when wheat is strong, and thus they have the whip hand of sellers.

While last year saw hard times for producers it evidently was very profitable to those who handled the products. So much so that we know of one mill that converted valley wheat into flour and netted \$80,000 from the last of July, 1880, to July 1st, 1881.

against this we offer the case of a farmer who being able to handle himself to advantage, has realized for a dozen years past an average of \$1 12 per bushel for his wheat.

The Corvallis Gazette proposes to have the farmers through the Willamette Valley subscribe money to continue the work of improving the entrance to Yaquina Bay.

Mr. J. B. Knapp, commission merchant in this city, who has studied the subject carefully, thinks there is a chance for the potato crop of this region to be in good demand this season.

A MERCHANT of this city informs us that he had a farmer's wheat in his hands, held as security for debt last Fall, and at the urgent request of the owner, held that wheat for a rise until June last, when he sold it for \$1 22 a cent.

A FAVORABLE SEASON.

During the Summer we have had occasional rains that have kept the ground fresh and have prevented excessively dusty roads, and now that harvest is over and farmers are ready to put their fallow land into wheat,

WAREHOUSES AT PORTLAND

The people of Walla Walla and that part of the country are sending down an immense quantity of wheat to Portland and are in constant fear that the warehouses here will be filled full and overflowing and that shipments will have to cease.

A FAIR WITHOUT PREMIUMS

It seems that in California they are trying an experiment in connection with their State Fair, of appropriating a certain amount of money for an art display, not in the way of premiums, but procure an exhibit, and the Record Union advocates that the same plan should be adopted in connection with every other department of future State fairs.

money to encourage a good exhibit would probably induce a wider representation, covering more territory and more products than we have ever before seen.

WHAT WILL FARMERS DO?

The editorials we re-publish this week from the San Francisco Chronicle and the Sacramento Record-Union show the farmers' side of the present wheat situation so forcibly, that no argument seems necessary.

The Union shows that by saving the extortion on freight the farmer could very soon own all the tonnage necessary to convey his crop to market.

All depends upon united effort, and without such effort the case is hopeless. If all the farmers of Oregon were organized, so that what financial strength they have could be combined and made available, any one can see that they could master the situation.

How is combination to be effected, and who is to effect it? There is the question that brings us up with a round turn. So far in the history of agriculture, farmers have never combined so effectively as to enable them to control markets here.

One of our San Francisco exchanges speaks with undisguised contempt of the wheat-growers' meeting, calling it a granger effort, and insists that the grange only contains within that order a small proportion of the farmers of California, not enough to give them any power to control the delivery of wheat.

It has always seemed that the grange offered a means for thorough organization and effectual combination, that is if combination in any form can be made effectual. In Oregon, as in California, the farming population does not sustain this order well, and owing to their indifference in this respect they are powerless.

While the grange is not a business scheme, it makes it possible, in connection with its workings, that men should organize and combine for their pecuniary advantage, as witness the Business Council of Linn county, which is a success.

But the grange is not sustained as it should be, and as a consequence agriculture is not organized, and does not defend itself. There is no use in disguising the fact that in the past personal ambition and more or less antagonism worked evil in this order, whose beneficent intention was thereby frustrated.

has been learned. Those who are in membership are only anxious to advance the common good and build up agriculture; so we suggest that the best interest of all will be subserved by building anew on its sure foundations.

Let us see how all would be benefited if combined action of farmers were possible. Our wheat crop is not the only opportunity for working to advantage, but knowing as we do that there is three-fourths enough tonnage on the way here to move the existing surplus, we could devise a policy (Oregon and California acting with union) that would hold speculation in check.

We present this subject for consideration, because we intend to keep the importance of organization and combination before the people as long as we live, and leave it afterwards to some one who may succeed us, for we have not much faith in immediate action.

A JUDICIOUS MOVEMENT.

The wheat-growers have taken a step in the right direction by organizing themselves into an association for mutual protection and concert of action.

The most remarkable circumstance connected with our ocean freight monopoly is that, with a tenacity unknown in the eastern states, it always places itself completely at the mercy of the farmer.

EXACTION OF TONNAGE

The harvest of 1880 yielded in California 1,200,000 tons of wheat. The supply was good from every quarter, and Liverpool offered a reduced rate.

in one year the value of 150 first class ships. The average amount annually extorted by ocean tonnage would build a fleet of ships sufficient to carry the annual surplus. There is in the State to-day 1,000,000 tons of grain for export. At ruling rates the freight from San Francisco to Liverpool will take toll from the selling price of this wheat of \$22,000,000.

OCEAN FREIGHTS.

It is only on the Pacific coast that the American Sampson is shorn of his strength and has become the full prey of monopolists. While the railroad exactions complained of in the East exist here in an aggravated form, it is well known that our farmers do not derive anything like the same counterbalancing advantages from the general railroad system of the continent.

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whatever to the freight speculator, who still continues to exact his \$5 per ton with the most delightful nonchalance. The small addition of from 200,000 to 300,000 tons register to the list of vessels on the way is now all that is necessary to enable the entire wheat surplus to be exported within the season.

THE LOCKS AGAIN.

The following leader from a late number of The Dalles Times is of general interest: 'The benefit of a free river can be more fully realized now when a bountiful harvest is finding its way to sea-board, than perhaps at any other season of the year.

In this connection, during the week, we had a conversation with one of the engineers of the locks, and he informed us that it would take fully a million and a half of money to complete the work. It would be economy to expedite the work, as if it is prolonged for any number of years, the same expenses will be incurred each year in the salary of engineers, etc., as though it were completed in three.

Our informant further states that locks could be constructed above here very readily. The river would be improved to the Big Eddy so as to make it navigable to that point, and then locks built around the Big Dalles; from thence to Tunwater the channel of the river could be rid of impediments so as to insure safe navigation.

Death of Wm. M. Hand

We regret to have to announce that Wm. M. Hand, publisher of The Dalles Mountaineer, is dead. Mr. Hand was about 47 years of age. He came to The Dalles fifteen years ago and purchased the paper which he owned at his death.

A Grange Fair.

Mr. A. R. Shipley, Secretary of Oswego Grange, was in the city last week and informed us that their grange will hold a fair on the second Saturday (October 8th) of next month, commencing in the morning and lasting all day.

This champion peach comes from a friend at Walla Walla and measures 1 1/2 inches in circumference. That is an inch larger than any other we have seen this Summer, but a young boy from Jacksonville asserts that they raised one that measured 1 3/4 inches.