

PLAIN FACTS FOR FARMERS.

After a third of a century of cultivation in the Willamette Valley, let us ask ourselves: What are the results? Wheat cultivation, on a large scale, has only been put in practice a short time. Settlers located here and farmed to some extent before 1850, but they did not grow wheat in any great quantity for export for the first twenty years.

A few years since, when all the export supply came from this valley, we produced and shipped abroad 160,000 tons of wheat, equal to almost 5,000,000 bushels. The exports of last year do not show the surplus product, because there were 20,000 tons of wheat of the previous crop carried over. All the exports of the past year, deducting that held over, only equals three fourths of the production a few years since; 120,000 tons against 160,000 tons a few years ago is a poor showing; that, too, when all appearances last summer indicated a larger acreage and an average good yield.

But looking to the future, shrewd calculators say they anticipate a further decline in production; that the surplus for export will be less than last year. So we ask Willamette Valley farmers: What is the matter? During the past few years the area of production in this valley has been increased, as thousands of Chinese have cleared lands that have been put into wheat. We have not had a great increase of population to feed, as any advent of new comers has been offset by emigration of old settlers, who have sold out to immigrants and moved East of the Cascades.

Portland has grown, but not enough to demand greatly increased supplies. Other towns through this valley have remained stationary, at least have shown no decided increase. The question that we are seriously called to face is: Is the beautiful Willamette Valley becoming poorer? Is it a natural result that it must become poorer? We do not think so, but as we find little increase of production in other lines to offset the decrease in wheat, it looks as if the farmers of this valley were falling behind instead of making progress.

A natural feeling of pride would make us shun such a discussion, but truth must be met. The manly course is to grapple with facts and ask our readers to assist us to a solution. The area of wheat was never, perhaps, greater than in 1881. One reason of decrease was because the yield of summer fallow land and fall and winter sowing was injured by the weather in April. A hot spell late in March, was followed by cold north winds for weeks afterwards, and winter wheat suffered. But we believe that poor farming caused the greater part of the decrease. The day is gone by when any sort of cultivation will be rewarded. We must now have thorough cultivation. Many keep on plowing, sowing and reaping, until weeds choke out wheat, and they do not get pay for labor and seed. It is a common remark from new comers that they see a great deal of poor cultivation. We need reformed methods and recognition of the fact that soil will not forever respond without inducements to do so.

Farmers need to be educated as much as men who engage in the so-called "learned professions." A lawyer or doctor has to study continually to keep up with the age. A farmer should read and experiment and investigate, or else he will fall behind.

Through this valley there are too many who never do anything of the kind; who follow their old methods until the soil wears out or weeds choke the crops. When fences and barns rot down and they cannot make a living on the land, they curse their "luck," sell out to some man (who has brains, we hope), and go somewhere else to repeat the farce they call farming.

We do not regret the lessened production of wheat if caused by mixed farming, for wheat production alone will not sustain a people and maintain the soil, but we do not learn that other products replace the lack of wheat. What we urge is that a farmer should always have something for sale. Stock of all kinds; fattened hogs; dairy products, fruit—and many things that create variety. What we base an opinion on, concerning the prosperity of the farmers of Western Oregon is, that they are struggling with debt in many instances, and do not have means to feel independent.

All through Western Oregon there are many who own sections and half sections of land, and are actually not so well off as they were ten years ago. Many put in heavy crops, and work hard to harvest them, who have their land mortgaged or are heavily in debt, or at least only hold their own, with a very poor grip, when one would suppose they could acquire something substantial as returns for their capital and labor.

That farming here can be made more prosperous we fully believe. We submit the whole question to our readers, and ask them to note which of their neighbors are most successful as farmers and most prosperous as individuals and then give us the benefit of their conclusions as to what such prosperity is based upon. If we can show how prosperity can be secured, it may incidentally benefit those who take the FARMER, and even react in favor of the many who are too wise to take an agricultural journal, much less believe any thing they see in print.

The English government has released Parnell, Dillon and O'Kelly from jail, and will also release all suspects not fully implicated in outrages. This is the inauguration of a more liberal policy that, it is to be hoped, will restore peace to Ireland and lead to needed reforms in the government of the island. This liberal movement by Gladstone is resented by a part of the Cabinet, but will be welcomed by the world at large as a good policy to be pursued.

DAVID & W. G. STEEL have laid us under obligations for a nice directory of post routes and express offices in Oregon and Washington.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON FARMER.

On the first of June we shall commence publication of a monthly journal, with the above title, which will be devoted to the progress and development of the Pacific Northwest. The journal will be intended for circulation at the East. It will contain compilations from all the journals published in Oregon and Washington, showing the development of each section, and also many original articles prepared expressly for the WILLAMETTE FARMER and the monthly edition to be styled as above.

The fact that a great interest is felt abroad, and through the United States, concerning the Columbia river region, and the necessity of furnishing reliable information concerning this region, has induced us to commence such a publication. We are aware that many people in Oregon are desirous of sending news back to friends East, and this monthly publication will contain just the sort of information they will wish to send.

To secure the success of this enterprise, Mr. Clarke will travel a great part of the time. He will visit in person every important portion of this wide region, and write up, on the spot, all facts of interest. In this way we intend to make the FARMER interesting and reliable.

The price of the OREGON and WASHINGTON FARMER will be seventy-five cents a year, and we commend it to those who desire to send reliable information to friends in other States, concerning all parts of the Columbia region and other portions of Oregon and Washington.

The amendments of the Senate to the Chinese bill have been adopted by the House, and by the time this issue goes into circulation will, no doubt, have received the President's signature and be a law. It suspends immigration for ten years instead of twenty, as provided by the first bill.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Diabolical Attempt to Assassinate Vanderbilt, Field and Davenport.

New York, April 29.—A dastardly attempt was made today by some miscreants on the lives of Wm. H. Vanderbilt and C. W. Field by sending them explosive through the mails. Fortunately the dangerous character of the packages was discovered en route to the post office station and probable loss thus prevented. The circumstances of the case as related by Postmaster Pearson are as follows: Two missives came into the post office about 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon. One was posted in the office and the other brought in by a collector a few minutes afterwards. The last one was addressed to Wm. H. Vanderbilt, 459 Fifth avenue, and the first was addressed to Cyrus W. Field, Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street. The packages were placed in the mail bag along with other mail for up town districts, part in a mail wagon and taken to Third avenue on the Elevated railroad to the station at the head of Chatham street, and then deposited on the front platform of the car. The train started up town and before reaching the station at Ninth street and Third avenue an explosion was heard from a mail bag, and fire and smoke were observed to issue from it. When the train stopped at the station the burning bag was hastily transferred to the platform, as railroad people were afraid to transport it further on the train. It was taken down stairs, placed on a wagon and taken to the post office station at Twenty-ninth street and Third avenue. Superintendent Mosher, in charge there, dispatched a messenger in haste for Postmaster Pearson. When that official arrived half the burned mail bags and contents were examined. The package addressed to Field was plunged in a bucket of water, for fear it might also explode, and when thoroughly soaked was examined. It was found to consist of a past-board box, covered with gaudy flowers and pictures, and had a small drawer in it, from which depended a string, as it is supposed, for the purpose of drawing it open and causing an explosion. Inside the box was found a tin can, containing half a pound of powder and a glass jar containing a white powder and a liquid, believed to be dynamite.

The contents of the mail bag were scorched by the explosion. Post office officials are making vigorous efforts to trace the packages to the parties who sent them and no stone will be left unturned. Postmaster Pearson says he will hunt down the ruffians who made the attempt.

New York, April 30.—Early this morning John A. Davenport, 319 East Nineteenth street, visited police headquarters, carrying with him an infernal machine similar to those sent Wm. H. Vanderbilt and Cyrus W. Field yesterday, and evidently prepared by the same person. It had been placed in the hallway of Davenport's house last night and exploded at 10 o'clock, setting fire to the door-matting, but doing no damage. The intention evidently was to set fire to the house. The machine was a cigar box bound with wire, and contained cotton, which was set on fire by an explosive, the powder being ignited by a fuse. There was just sufficient powder to shatter the box and ignite the cotton. The box was probably intended for Superintendent Walling, the letter W. being written on it, and he living a few doors distant.

Lucie Sam's Pets.

LORNSBURG, N. M., April 30.—A party of 10 or 12 hicks and 15 squaws and children are reported in Burro mountains. They were on the old trail leading south from Gila. No depredations are yet reported from the Burros. Co. G, 23d infantry, numbering 40 men, under command of Lieut. Clark, arrived this morning from Fort Bliss and are awaiting orders. Three companies of the 23d and one of the 24th will arrive this evening. A courier reports Forsyth with 7 companies of troops on the trail and will follow the Indians into old Mexico. He reported Forsyth as saying he will follow the trail as long and far as it can be found.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 28.—Lordsburg dispatch: A courier arrived this evening from Guthrie's ranch on the Gila. He brings news that a large body of Indians are on the Gila, destroying everything left on the raid through that section of Friday and Saturday last. Newton and a large party are strongly fortified and are hourly expecting an attack. They sent here for a supply of arms and ammunition, but none are available. The party report having buried 30 bodies, making the total over 50 buried on the Gila and Clifton during the past week.

Boiler Explosion.

KINGSVILLE, S. C., April 28.—The steamer Marion exploded her boiler today. She had on board a picnic party. Minnie Henry was instantly killed; Mattie and Manie Henry

are missing and supposed to be drowned. Lizzie Henry and J. C. Eason are not expected to recover. Wm. Trumbull was badly scalded; Minnie Bajes seriously injured; Orville Stiles supposed to be drowned; Tom Richardson, colored, of the crew, drowned, and John Williams, of the crew, badly hurt.

Diabolical Scheme.

Moscow, April 30.—A man named Kobasch Bogdanowitch, recently submitted to the authorities a plan for the illumination of the Kremlin with the electric light. Inquiries were instituted and it was discovered that his intention was to blow up the whole Kremlin during the festivities attending the coronation of the czar. At the man's residence were found new peasants' caps, the crowns of which were filled with explosive material. It is supposed that these caps were intended to be thrown into the air in greeting the czar, and that on falling to the ground the contents would explode with the effect of bombs. Bogdanowitch and 300 nihilists were arrested.

Horrible Death.

SAN JOSE, April 30.—The residence of J. Brett, at this place, was partially destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. Mrs. Brett was not awakened by the flames until the house was completely enveloped and every means of escape cut off. As quickly as the fire was extinguished the firemen searched for the bodies of the unfortunate inmates and they were found, but horribly burned and charred beyond recognition. The fire is supposed to have originated from the upsetting of a lamp and explosion.

Funeral of Gen. Harburt.

Belvidere, Ill., April 30.—The remains of Gen. Stephen A. Harburt, late Minister to Peru, were buried with appropriate ceremonies here today. About 10,000 people were present. Among the participants were five companies of the 3d Regiment of State militia, six encampments of Knights Templar, a number of lodges, members of the bar of Belvidere, and 300 veterans of the late war who served under him. Public and private buildings were unusually draped, and a several blocks spanned the streets. Services were in a public square. Preamble and resolutions of considerable length were read afterwards, speaking in strong terms of the personal qualities of the dead hero, his public services as a soldier and civilian, his kindness of heart, and the universal respect and esteem in which he was held in life, and the shock which his death caused his neighbors and friends in Belvidere. The resolutions expressed earnest sympathy with the cause of Peru, and pray that the God of nations will yet arrange the affairs of that country. They close with words of sympathy to the bereaved family. An address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Kern of the Unitarian church. The remains were interred in the family cemetery. A few remarks were made by Rev. W. Lawrence, Reformed, who conducted the body to the cemetery in the outskirts of town, where they were laid to rest with Masonic honors.

Emerson's Funeral.

CONCORD, Mass., April 30.—The last rites over the remains of Ralph Waldo Emerson took place yesterday afternoon. A special train from Boston brought many people, and all around every building, to the house and cemetery, public buildings being heavily draped. Services at the house were conducted by Rev. W. H. Furness, of Philadelphia, and were of a simple character. The aged mother of the poet, his wife and daughter Ellen, sat near the coffin. After services the procession formed and the body taken to the Unitarian Church, a short distance from the house. The church was crowded, and when the body was placed in front of the pulpit Judge Rockwood Hoar took his place at the head of the coffin. When the family and friends were seated, Judge Hoar began a beautiful address with the words "The beauty of Israel is fallen in its high place." Selections from scriptures followed and Rev. James Freeman Clarke delivered a long and interesting address on the life and works of Emerson. Prayer and benediction closed the services. The people of Concord then looked upon the face of the dead and the coffin was closed and borne to the cemetery.

Democracy not Favorable.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—There is no inclination among Democrats in Congress to vote for the bill to establish a court of appeals on the ground that they don't believe in the policy of increasing the number of federal courts or judges. There will probably be determined opposition by Democrats of the House. Members of the House concede the necessity for such relief to the supreme court as will relieve it from the enormous business now before it and prevent accumulation of cases hereafter; but many, if not a majority, express the opinion this relief can be given without such increase in judiciary as the court of appeals bill provides for. When the bill reaches the House, Manning's plan of dividing the present supreme court into three chambers will probably be offered as a substitute.

Murder and Escape.

FORT MADISON, Ia., May 1.—Polk Wells, the robber, escaped from the penitentiary this morning with two accomplices named Fitzgerald and Cook, by chloroforming their attendant in the hospital, breaking through the iron roof and overpowering the hospital guard. John Elder, one of the latter, died from the effects of his injuries and chloroform. Pursuit has been organized, but no trace has been found of the escaped men.

Judge McArthur set aside the verdict for \$100,000 damages for false imprisonment awarded Hallet Kilbourne.

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Jan. J. M. Gregory, Marblehead, Mass.

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References. W. W. SPALDING, Packer and Cattle Dealer. ANDREW ROBERTS, of Fishel & Roberts. JOHN CHAN, of John Chan & Co. C. M. WHEBER, Boots and Shoes. JOSEPH BURKHARD, Burkhardt & Spaulding. All the above named business men of Portland recent \$100,000 insurance in this above named company. GOOD AGENTS WANTED, apply to A. M'KINNIE, 102 First Street, Portland

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