



Correspondence.

NOTES ON WASCO COUNTY.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The writer's business last autumn caused him to travel over portions of Wasco county just as the harvests were being gathered in, and he passed the winter in Southern Wasco for the purpose of observing the conditions under which man, and the domestic animals which minister to his wants, can live there.

Regarding the question of that county proving so well adapted to grain production (without artificial irrigation) as to make grain farming a safe and reliable pursuit as the most important reference to that country, observation and enquiry were directed chiefly to that point, and this is written to give parties interested the results.

I will begin by saying that I had no faith in upland farming for grain; that four years ago, when comparatively little had been attempted in that direction, I made up my mind that the greatest number of chances were against success. Now, without full faith or any degree of enthusiasm on the subject, I am constrained to say that experience is giving many reasons for the belief that grain farming, or mixed farming, may be made successful in very large extents of that country which a few years ago was supposed to be fit for pasturage only. Yet, with all that can be reasonably hoped in the way of the capacity of those lands to mature crops by present natural supplies of moisture or permanent changes of climate towards a greater supply (which many claim are taking place), there will still be very large portions of that country which, with the utmost man can do, must be, and only be, used for pasturage.

The county of Wasco extends, by surveyor's lines from north to south, 138 miles, and from east to west 84 miles. The only line of railroad within its limits at present is along its northern border, and the facilities for getting grain to market are next in importance to the capacity of the soil to produce it, those lands within the reach of transportation facilities should receive the first attention. Leaving The Dalles and pursuing the old road to Walla Walla, we have on our right a hilly country, watered by Three, Five and Eight Mile creeks. It was amongst these hills that upland farming for grain first commenced in this county, and it has extended eastward along the foot hills of the Cascades, keeping near the edges of the pine belt to the northern boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation, over 40 miles from The Dalles. It is no longer an experiment here, especially in the vicinity of Dufur and between that and Tygh valley. Having been delayed several hours at the residence of Mr. Floyd, in the valley of Five Mile, I asked Mrs. Floyd (whom I found to be an intelligent, observant lady) if she had such confidence in upland grain raising as would lead her to advise any near friend (a brother, for instance) to make that his dependence for a living? She candidly said she had not; she thought last year an exceptional year favorable one, and thought that there would be many failures from dry seasons. She told me her husband had found that the last sheep had run on the most gave the best crop. This, I think, is probably due as much to the effect of the tramping of the sheep, as to the enrichment of the land by their manure. There is not much land near the river suitable for cultivation, the surface being too broken and the soil (which is alluvial loam carried from the canyons in which the streams flow by the wind) is here too open and coarse to withstand the penetrating influence of the drying wind and sunshine. The soil improves in that respect as you recede from the river, and almost invariably best where the country slopes toward the north or east. From the vicinity of Dufur, fifteen miles to the south, in traveling eastward, a greater proportion of the land is of promising appearance.

After passing the Deschutes river, and rising to the plains which divide it from the John Day river, the soil is almost uniformly good. It was told by another intelligent woman (Mrs. Price, who is amongst the oldest residents there) that forty bushels per acre was obtained to have been harvested in one case last year in her vicinity. She also said that the superiority of old sheep runs was so manifest that the old sheep camps "went like hot cakes" as homesteads.

At Katon's, at the head of Spanish Hollow, three peach orchards on upland bear well. I saw in that vicinity very fair stands of sod corn, and was told tomatoes, squashes and cucumbers did well. I saw specimens of Early Rose potatoes at Dr. Rollin's place nine inches in length. Near Spanish Hollow, Mr. Clark Dunlap called my attention to the result of an experiment he had made to test the question of whether the alkali land, which is common in damp depressions which form the heads of water courses here, would yield any valuable crop. He had broken up the much tramped sod, threw on a lot of manure and sowed seed and harrowed it in as he would so much as or wheat. He had a fine promise of a good crop, but a party driving 1,500 sheep let them into the lot when the sod was up from four to six inches. The result was just enough of the manure were left to prove that great crops of that valuable winter feed for stock can be raised. It seems to me that with a good store of manure and wheat

and carefully put-up straw stacks the farmer in that district could combine stock and grain raising in such a way as would give him as nearly annual occasional failures of grain crops. Should further experience prove favorable, this district, extending, as it does, about fifty miles south from the Columbia, and averaging thirty miles wide, would furnish homesteads for a great many families.

Crossing the John Day we find the Blalock Company operating on the north end of the plain lying between that river and Willow creek. Including the Rock creek country, taking local reports, the yield of the Blalock Company last year averaged from nine to ten bushels of wheat per acre. The crop of Mr. Weatherford, a little further from the river, was claimed to be twenty-two bushels per acre. I think the land here does not average as good as the plain between the Deschutes and John Day rivers. In both cases it improves as you recede from the Columbia. So do the facilities for securing a supply of water for homes and uses and fuel, and building material—things that are indispensable. The nearer you approach the hilly hills of the Cascade Mountain range the more surface springs are found, and the more close the texture of the soil becomes the plants found growing with the bunch grass are of greater variety. This satisfies me that whenever the means of sending grain to market shall be cheapened by the construction of railroads into that country, grain raising will be joined to stock raising, and will add to its security as a business. Taking a course westward again, from the vicinity of Fossil to the Deschutes, near the mouth of Antelope, you have hill country all the way. A country which has no more and is fitted to permanent pasture a greater number of permanent homes than that covered by the plain lands we have passed in review. The lands as yet occupied are mainly the narrow, ribbon like canyon bottoms of the creeks which feed from those hills, but, under good management, give extraordinary results. I feel quite safe in saying that I never saw corn growing anywhere else that would equal the yield per acre of some observed in the canyon of Rock creek, and will not hazard what character I may have for variety by giving the size of specimen onions and potatoes raised on these lands. But they are of such limited extent as compared with the surrounding country that success full farming of the upland slopes of these hills would more than quadruple the population of the county in a short time. A gentleman owning a horse ranch in the Trout creek canyon observed that he was satisfied the hills would yield grain well, but hoped his neighbors would not find it out. The soil seems to be of a stronger, more tenacious character, a greater variety of plants like lupine, wild rose, lupin, and lupin are found here, and a greater variety of grasses, than are found on the plains northward, and I feel quite sure that while they will carry a great amount of stock permanently, they will be found good for mixed husbandry, that is, stock and grain raising combined. As we near the Deschutes again, where it forms the boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation, the surface grows somewhat level, and more of the land is of the character I understand to be described by the term scrub lands. Some of it consists of plains of considerable extent, but almost invariably that which lies with an incline towards the south or southwest is blotched by these peculiar rings of rocky land surrounding hillocks of good soil. While I have no doubt much of this land that has not yet been tried will mature grain crops or yield wheat, oats and barley hay, I do not think it will furnish as many comfortable homes to a given area as the more hilly country eastward; both water and timber will be harder to get; the difficulty in regard to the latter would be lessened if it were not for the fact that the slopes of the Cascades to the westward are within the Indian Reservation.

Turning now southward again with the Deschutes on our right, and the hills in which heads the Antelope, Trout and Willow creeks, on our left we cross the narrow valleys of these streams and the upland plains lying between them. From Trout creek to McKay creek there is a fine extent of comparative level country, on which water for domestic use and stock purposes is the great need to induce its settlement. I see now, yet bringing these lands into the foundation of homesteads for families but for the government of the United States either to bore artesian wells at its own cost or give a sufficient quantity of land to the head of a family to justify settlers for the cost of securing a permanent water supply, by that or other means. I am satisfied that one quarter section is not sufficient inducement for that purpose, and that consequently, unless some modification can be made in the present homestead and pre-emption laws, very much of the dry, interior lands will remain the common range for wild cows and scarcely less wild cowboys. From the north edge of the Willow creek basin south to Prineville the country on our right is a dry plain cut up by the canyons, in which flow the Crooked river, Deschutes, Squaw creek and Malolise, to join each other. The soil is of a coarse, open, sandy character, the debris of soft, conglomerate rock, to my eye very unpropitious for agricultural purposes without an abundant supply of water for irrigation. Yet resident-boat acquaintances claim that it will yield grain crops. I visited a field of Mr. Beaman's (north and adjoining Prineville), where, on rolling bench land, a moderate crop of wheat was harvested last year, and it was affirmed melons, squashes and tomatoes matured on the same land without irrigation. When I visited there in December last some plowing had been done for this season's crop. I do not think it averaged more than five inches deep, and must think that a furrow of twice that depth would be a double security for a better yield.

The valley lands along the margins of the Ochoco and Crooked rivers have been used for grain raising. They are subject to frosts, even in summer, which sometimes seriously injures wheat for bread making, and there is not yet enough of it raised to prevent Walla Walla

bacon and Dalles flour being sold in Prineville. It is a pastoral country, and the new people there find themselves efficiently occupied in looking after the horses, catle and sheep which feed on the natural grasses. A railroad being laid through would effect some change by inducing more attention to agriculture, but I do not think (except as accessory to stock raising) agriculture will ever amount to much in this district. East of Prineville the country is occupied partially for stock raising now. Southward, within the limit of Wasco county, there are few settlements. It is a distance of about fifty miles, and embraces the upper third of the Deschutes valley, and on account of the scarcity of water is called "the Desert." On this account the summer's growth is in the main untouched by stock, this fresh range every fall inducing both domestic animal and game in large quantities to a creek winter bed and shelter for it. It will not be made use of as foundations for permanent homes of white men until the land laws are so modified as to enable men to acquire legally a greater quantity than 160 acres in a body.

On the west edge of this so-called desert is, in my judgment, a more inviting country. From the junction of the Malolise with the Deschutes (which is the southern boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation) southward to the county line the distance is some seventy-five miles. Taking the east edge of the pine timber as a line, and assuming that settlements might be formed for five miles into the desert from this line, and ten miles into timber, would give us room for a great many homes. I have been several times in the vicinity of the point at which the W. V. & C. M. (Lewiston) and McKinley Park roads from the Willamette Valley crosses this stretch of country. It is one of the most beautiful regions during the summer sea on that I ever saw. There is a bountiful supply of the purest and coolest of water, either in the shape of small streams flowing down from the mountains or rising in immense crystal fountains taking the district lying north of Black Butte and south of the Malolise, my estimate is that there is ample room for three hundred families to settle in the combined business of dairying and stock raising conducted on about this plan: The calves kept in pasture the first year, starved when young cattle with half of the milk from cows, or early taught to drink the skimmed milk, carried through the first winter with green-cut nutritious hay, mangold wurtzel, turnip or rutabagas, any or all of which can be raised. Fencing, building material and fuel is abundant. The feeding season, which I think will average four months of the year at least, will be compensated for in large part by the abundant supply of water and wood, and the certainty with which the calves can be put out on pasture after the first year, can be made to get most of their winter subsistence on the desert just outside the pine belt, but raised in the way indicated, will know where to find me when hard weather sets in, and will never get wild if the owner does his duty by them. The grasses in this region keep green all the summer, and the timber so breaks the snow fall that there is much grass that can be got even when the snow is a foot deep in the open country. Stock wintered very well last winter in the Malolise valley, which is about ten miles inside the pine belt, by the total snow fall last winter, here was thirty-two inches, fourteen inches being the deepest it lay at one time four miles north of Black Butte. But for the misplacement of a record kept here by Miss Bettie Bamford, I should have been able, I think, to show that the uniformity of the winter climate here will commend it as a place of residence for consumptive invalids. I cannot think there is within the bounds of Oregon a better locality for this purpose during the summer season.

This region is not likely to be limited to cattle raising and dairying as resources. Even now some of the few settlements make shingles for sale in Prineville, and should any railroad ever cross the Cascades unnumbered for supply of the immense treeless region eastward would become at once an important resource. I should expect that this stretch of country along between the Cascade range and the Deschutes river, south from the Indian Reservation, will be more liable to late and early frosts than that from the north line of the Reservation north to the Columbia; yet, experience so far indicates that vegetables, like potatoes, escape frost better inside than just outside of the pine belt, and the upland, which will give a crop of any kind without irrigation, is safer in that respect than low spots giving out springs or containing wet land.

To summarize my views of the resources of Wasco county and the safest method of development, I would say for grain farming that the northern and eastern sides of the county offer the most grounds of success, but that even in the most favored of these localities the raising of stock of some kind ought to be combined with farming. In some cases the stock interest may be secondary, but in most cases the stock interest ought to be the first or leading interest, and in central, southern and western Wasco improvements in agriculture will surely take place as the surest means of adding to the profit and permanency of stock raising.

I heard a great deal last fall and winter of a permanent change having taken place in the climate of Eastern Oregon, more favorable to the production of cereal crops. I confess to being a doubter of such being the case to such an extent as to be counted on. I can believe that some change has taken place. By reason of extended cultivation in the Willamette Valley from year to year more hay and grain are cut in Western Oregon, giving out in the spring process an additional amount of moisture, which, rising to the height of the Cascade Mountains, carried over them by the southwest wind, may be precipitated on Eastern Oregon in the shape of rain. But this effect depends upon the course of the wind, and a southwest wind blowing over Western Oregon is not a certain certainty. True, extended cultivation of grain and hay in the Upper Columbia Valley might contribute ac-

ording to this theory by down stream wind, but there are no cooling mountain tops to aid the condensing process. Timber planting, which is claimed to influence climate, has not yet been done East of the Cascades to have any effect; I therefore see no reason to justify a belief in a permanent change in the climate there, and believe much of the success which has been obtained in farming these uplands was always attainable by the same measure of plucky experiment which brought that success. I say this not because I believe man will change climate, but our boasted knowledge amounts to little if it will not aid us in procuring a practical grade into that promising little city.

There have been a large quantity of horses, cattle and hogs purchased and driven out of this country this season, which has had a tendency to make the prices of young stock firm and a little advanced.

The saw mills in this section of country are running on full time, and, in fact, crowding their saws, yet, we understand, they are unable to get any lumber ahead of their orders.

A general changing of mail carriers and stage line owners throughout the Wasco county will take place on July 1st next; also, several changes in mail routes will occur throughout the country. We are pleased to note the establishment of the following enterprises in our town since your visit: First we would call the Moscow Brewery, a paper devoted to the interests of Moscow and Paradise valley in general. Next would come the Banking House of Messrs. Baker & Clark, of Walla Walla. Next comes the general merchandise house of Messrs. Derham & Kaufmann, of San Francisco; and lastly the completion of Fries & Co.'s brewery. All of the above appear to be well pressed with their location and business prospects.

The sporting men of this place have just completed a circle race track, one mile in circumference, and said to be the best track in this country. It is located about three quarters of a mile east of the city.

Archbishop Scaughers, of your city, arrived here last Saturday, and held services on Sunday. He delivered a lecture on Sunday evening to a large audience. The lecture was highly appreciated.

The Methodist Episcopal Societies of Moscow, Pullman and Colfax have united in holding a camp meeting in the vicinity of Kamiakan Butte, a distance of about fifteen miles from this place. The meeting commenced last Friday, and will continue till July 3d. Yours respectfully, GARDNER.

Letter from Polk County.

CROWLEY, Or., July 4, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer: We see in our Oregon papers various opinions on the crop prospects in Western Oregon, but all of them we have seen miss the mark very much, at least for Polk county. You may, Mr. Editor, rely on the following facts, at least in regard to this county: All grain sowed on summer fallow last fall never looked better at this time than this year, but it is feared by many that it may not fill well. When we say that "all grain," we, however, only mean wheat as winter oats, though sowed in the fall, will not make over two-thirds of a crop, being mostly short and spindling. Spring wheat is mostly a failure, and looks worse at this time than we have ever known it in Oregon. Hay is going to be exceedingly scarce, and there is already a great local enquiry for the same. There is one great blessing connected with crops this year, and that is, the grain is not sown here by wild oats, but that also accounts for the scarcity of hay. Late sown grain, whether wheat or oats, will not amount to anything unless sowed on damp or swampy land, for the usual June rains have failed us this year, and it is too late now to be of much benefit to crops. Yours respectfully, GEORGE H. ELLERS.

Weather Report for June, 1882.

During June, 1882, there were 4 days during which rain fell, and 0.91 inches of water; 17 clear days and 9 cloudy days, other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 61.63 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 78 deg. on the 2d.

Lowest daily mean temperature, 50 deg. on the 19th.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 73.47 deg.

Highest temperature for the month, 93 deg. at 2 P. M. on the 2d and 3d.

Lowest temperature, 51 deg. at 9 P. M. on the 20th.

Thunder occurred on the 5th and 6th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the north during 22 days, south 5 days, southwest 3 days.

During June, 1881, there were 11 days during which rain fell, and 1.75 inches of water; 8 clear days and 11 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month, 68.40 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 86 deg. on the 2d.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 52 deg. on the 4th.

T. PRANCE.

July 1, 1882.

Sic Semper Tyrannis.

"Thus always to tyrants," says Virginia upon her coat of arms, and with this motto is a vigorous form with his foot upon a prostrate usurper. Fitting device and motto for Hunt's Remedy. Thus does it tread down usurping diseases, and thus does it speak to ailments that baffle the skill of the medical profession. There are no diseases so bold, yet so insidious and dangerous, and at the same time persistent and multiform in manifestations, as the diseases of the kidneys and liver. And yet here the domain of Hunt's Remedy. The experience of thousands proves that it does all that is claimed for it, effects cures of cases that have been hopeless, and turns despair into joy. Yes, it sets its foot upon the tyrant, kidney disease, and cries out to the world, "So semper tyrannis."

North American Review.

In the North American Review for July, the leading article is a profound and sympathetic study of "Emerson as a Poet," by Edwin P. Whipple. The author has scarcely a word to say about forms and modes of expression, and cheerfully conceals that Emerson had command only of two or three metres; but he brings all the resources of his extraordinary critical acumen to prove that as a seer, as one who has intuition of the deeper truths of nature and the moral universe, in short, as a poet in the highest sense of the word, Emerson must take rank with the greatest geniuses of all time. In "Hydraulic Pressure in Wall Street," a writer who withholds his name but who manifestly is no novice, expresses many of the tricks and devices by means of which fictitious values are created, and the unwary lured daily to ruin. Desire Charney contributes the eleventh article in the series on "The Ruins of Central America," and records the crowning triumph of his exploring expedition, namely, the discovery of a great ruined city in the hitherto unexplored country of the Lacandonnes, Guatemala. There are two papers on the civil service question: One, "The Things Which Remain," by Gail Hamilton, who labors to relieve the civil service from the aspersions cast upon it on account of Guiteau's crime; the other, "The Business of Office-Seeking," by Richard Grant White, who forcibly portrays the moral ills that come from the perennial struggle for place. Finally, Francis Marion Crawford, son of the eminent American sculptor, writes of "False Taste in Art," and indicates certain directions in which art culture might be developed under the conditions of life existing in the United States. The Review is for sale by booksellers and newspapers generally.

Migrating Californians.

There is a large immigration this season from California of people who take their teams and wagons and load in their household necessaries and then start off north in search of homes and homestead land. They drive through Lake county, and the newspapers there declare they cannot let well enough alone, but are bound to go further and stand a chance to fare worse. Then they traverse Wasco county with its ten millions of acres, and this is what the Prineville News has to say: The spirit of emigration seems to have taken possession of the Californians early in the season. The movement is a good one if not too much indulged. But while emigrants, as a rule, desire to reach a more favorable locality, there are too many who are not willing to stop until their means are entirely exhausted, when they are compelled to do so. The destination of nearly all who have passed this place is Eastern Washington. When one has once permitted this migratory impulse to move him, it seems that an irresistible restlessness takes possession and controls his future movements. He is never willing to let well enough alone, but is forever searching for something better. It would be a matter of valuable information to those who annually vibrate between California and Washington Territory if they only knew that they pass by, without notice, the very country they are adapted to settle and help to build up. A country that needs their labor, and one that will give ample return for every day's work that is given to it. This country is Eastern Oregon, from the north line to the south. In this part of the State can be found lands that are adapted to any kind of farming, either agricultural or live stock. Thousands of farms suitable for either of these pursuits are to-day awaiting the hands of energetic labor to convert them into beautiful and pleasant homes. True, these lands are fast being taken, but there is always room for more, and the fact remains, in the settlement of this country, the same as in others, that those who come last get as good places, if not better, than those who were the first to choose. A cordial invitation is extended to those who heretofore have been on extremes—wintering in the heat of Central and Southern California and consoling in the extreme cold weather of Washington Territory in the winter—to try the medium, and settle in Eastern Oregon, and there is every assurance that there will never be any cause for regretting it.

The bad effect of mercury will be effectually eradicated from the system, by using several bottles of Plunder's Oregon Blood Purifier, already a staple article.

Goldendale Gazette: Recently there were standing on Main street seven Kittitas teams, all loaded with wool and hides, en route to market. The wool aggregated 13,000 pounds. Sheep did well last winter. The per centage of lambs is unusually large this spring; the fleeces are extra heavy and of better quality than usual. Wool is now worth from 20 to 25 cents per pound, and if all years could be like the past it would certainly pay to raise sheep.

Reading's Russia Salve meets with wonderful success in all cases of skin disease. Try it.

Goldendale Gazette: William Glynne, near Lebanon, has two full blooded Jersey cows, a bull and two calves, and others are gradually going into superior grades of stock.

Shiny Men.

"Well's Health Renewer" restores health and vigor, cures Dyspepsia, Impotence, Sexual Debility, &c.